Akemi-chan, lift your leg for me.
Right, just like that.
Flash
Flash
Yes, several of them...
But that one... That girl in the middle there. She seems to have something that the others don't.
DID ANY OF THEM CATCH YOUR EYE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DOROTHY?
YOU'VE SEEN ALL OF OUR GIRLS NOW.
OH MY.
IMPRESSIVE AS ALWAYS, DOROTHY.

FASHION

ALIVE

HE'S SPECIAL.

春の特別企画!! スクールアクセ☆大プレゼント

アライブモデルが勢揃い!

春のお出かけワンピ特集

&春☆カワ メイク入門

憧れのスタイリングを徹底チェック!

モテ脚♡必勝法

スペシャルインタビュー

人気ブランド イチ押し情報

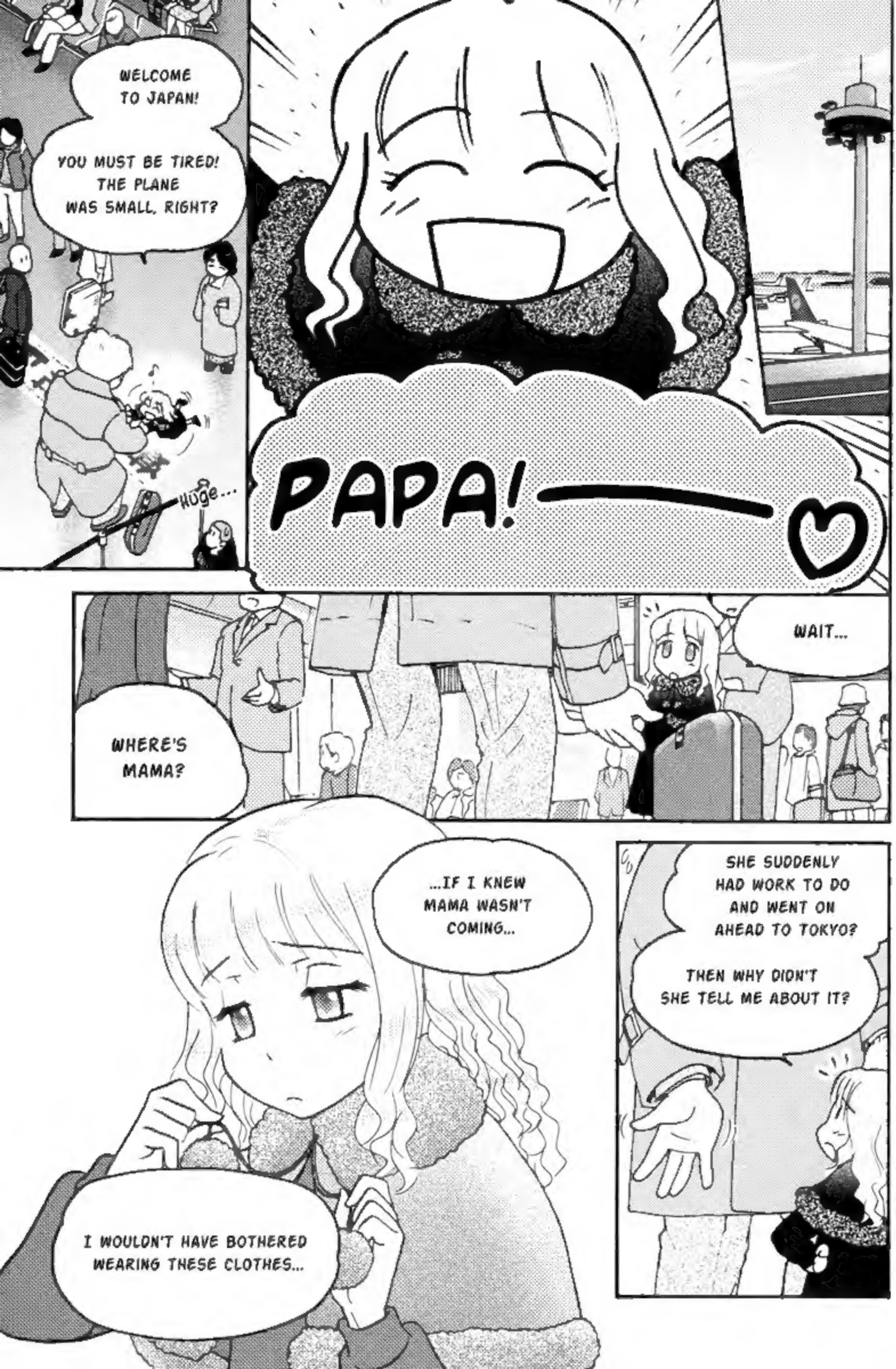
早耳ショッピング

新学期ガビュースタイル

イメチェンヘアプラン

4月号 april

Part 25 His and Her Treasures

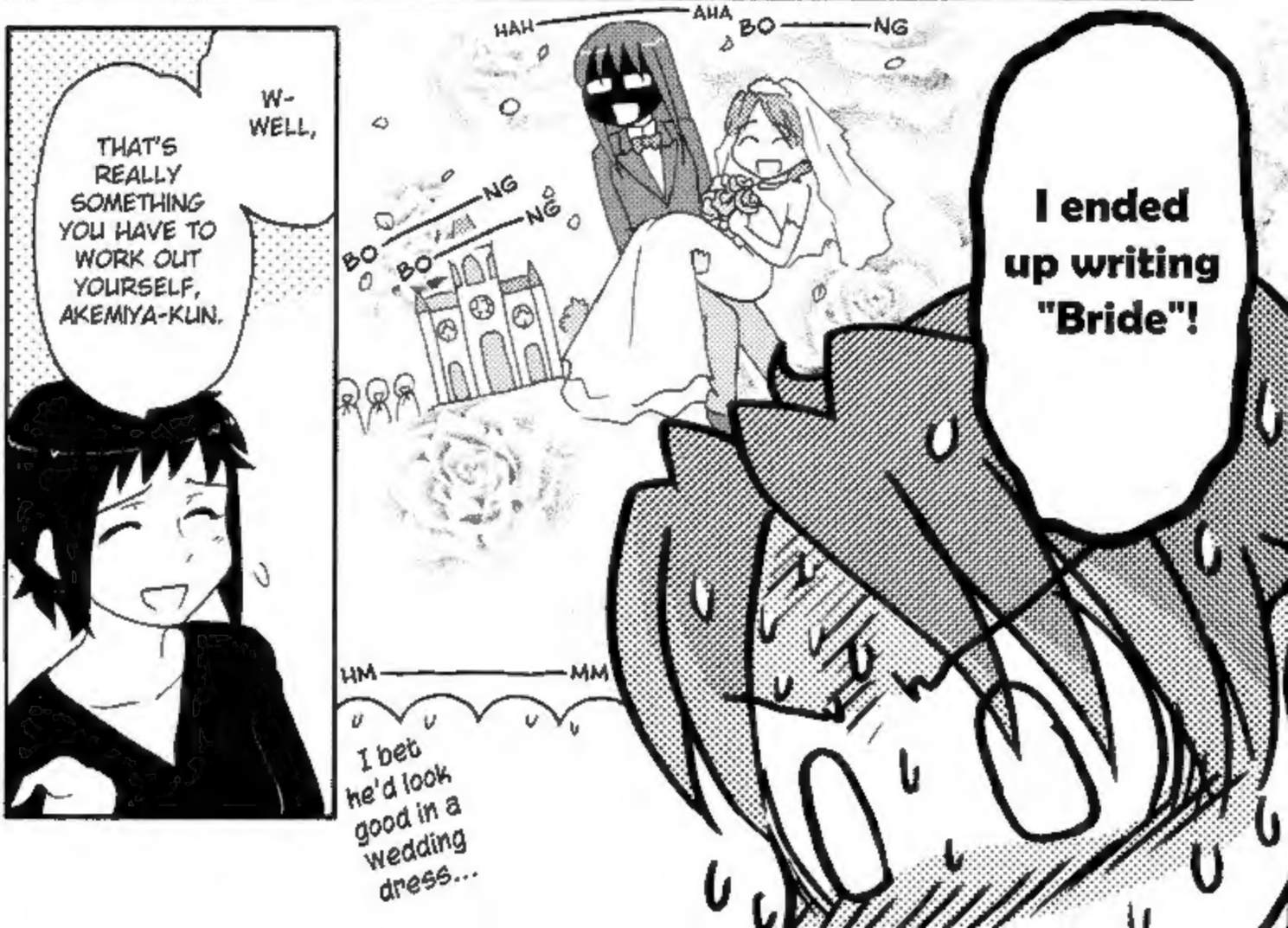

WELCOME TO JAPAN!
YOU MUST BE TIRED! THE PLANE WAS SMALL, RIGHT?
Huge...
PAPA!
WAIT...
WHERE'S MAMA?
SHE SUDDENLY HAD WORK TO DO AND WENT ON AHEAD TO TOKYO?
THEN WHY DIDN'T SHE TELL ME ABOUT IT?
...IF I KNEW MAMA WASN'T COMING...
I WOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED WEARING THESE CLOTHES...

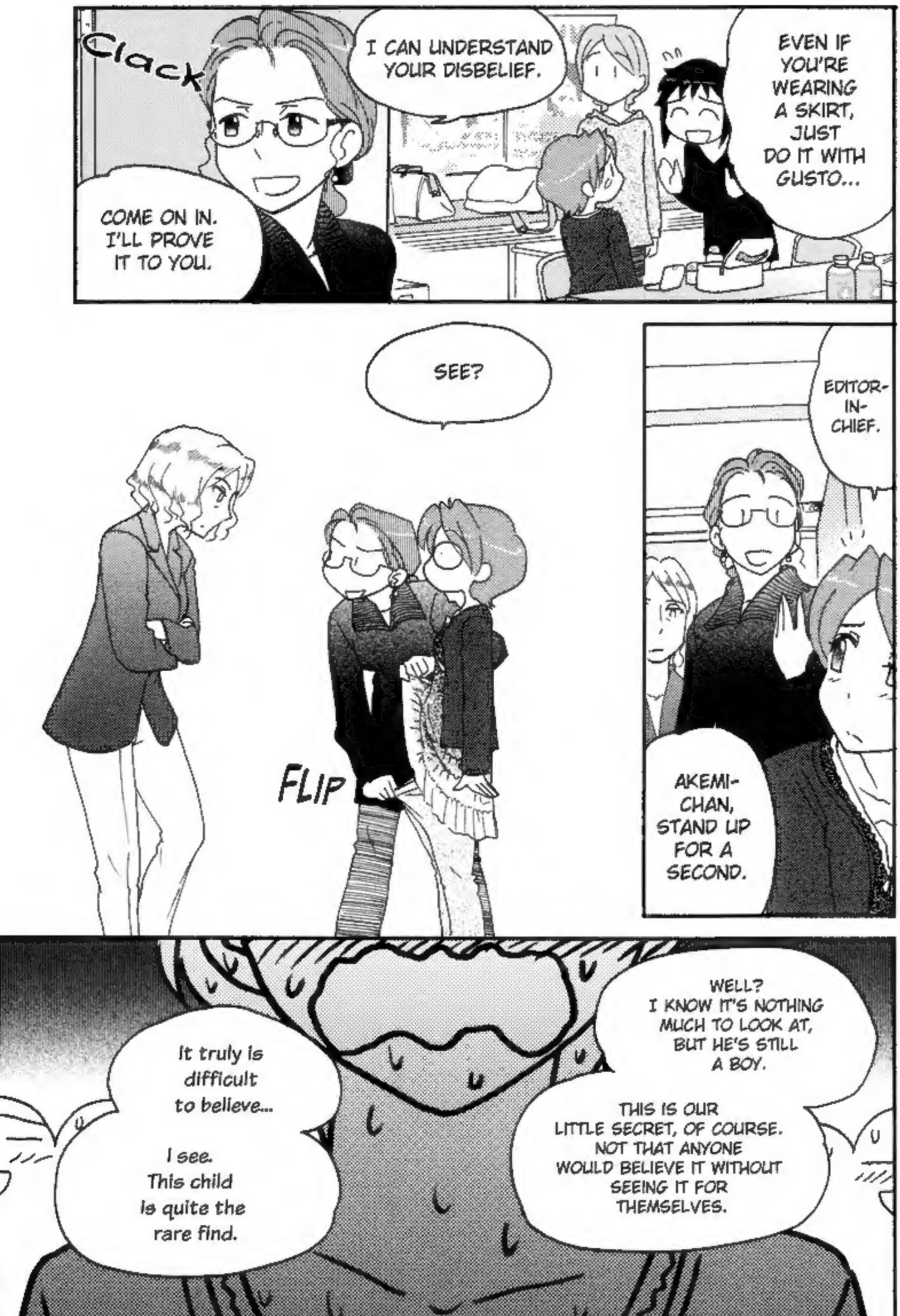
Sigh
ALIVE
ALIVE
DID THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF GROPE YOU AGAIN?
WHAT'S WRONG, AKEMI-CHAN?
YOU REALLY DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU COULD BE OUR OLDER BROTHER.
ACTUALLY, YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A GUY AT ALL.
Rattle
YOU'RE 16, RIGHT? FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?
14
OH, HAPPY BIRTH-DAY!
WAS MY BIRTHDAY.
YES-TER-DAY...
SPLASH
WE SHOULD GO OUT FOR SOME TEA! WE'LL GET YOU A CAKE!
Thanks to that swimsuit.
HE- WHEN DID YOU SEE ME!?
AHAHA. BUT WE TOTALLY SAW IT AT THE BEACH.
I KNOW, RIGHT? SOMETIMES I WONDER IF HE'S REALLY GOT A DICK OR NOT.

I'm the one who wants to cry!
HERE WE GO.
IT'S JUST NOT FAIR! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A GUY!
Your skin is so soft and pair! Your face is so small and cute!
HEY, YOU TWO DON'T TEASE AKEMI-CHAN SO MUCH.
NO MORE!
OUR READERS WILL CRY IF YOU MAKE HIM QUIT.
ALL I WANTED ...
WAS FOR THE GIRL I LIKED TO NOTICE ME.
EVEN THOUGH SHE REJECTED ME
RIGHT AFTER I STARTED MODELING, I KEPT WEARING GIRLS' CLOTHES.
I'M SCARED...
SULK
AM I GOING TO KEEP DOING THIS FOREVER?
IT'S JUST NOT RIGHT! I'M SIXTEEN YEARS OLD!
YET THEY PUT UP GIANT POSTERS OF ME IN A MINISKIRT BUT NOBODY REALIZES I'M A GUY!
THERE THERE.
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT HE LOOKED GOOD.
OH, HE MEANS LAST MONTH'S COVER SHOT.

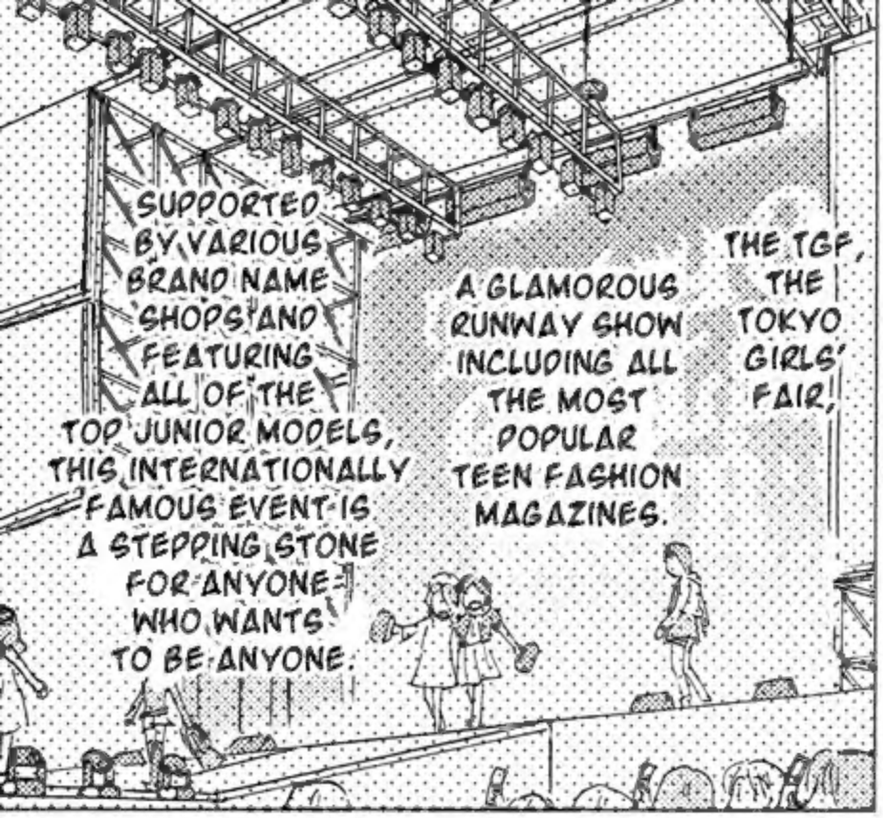
I- I'M SO SCARED THAT LATELY I CHANGE IN THE BATHROOM BY MYSELF.
AT SCHOOL, DURING PE, I CAN FEEL THEM STARING AT ME!
S- SOUNDS ROUGH.
IT'S A CO-ED SCHOOL! DO YOU HEAR ME!?

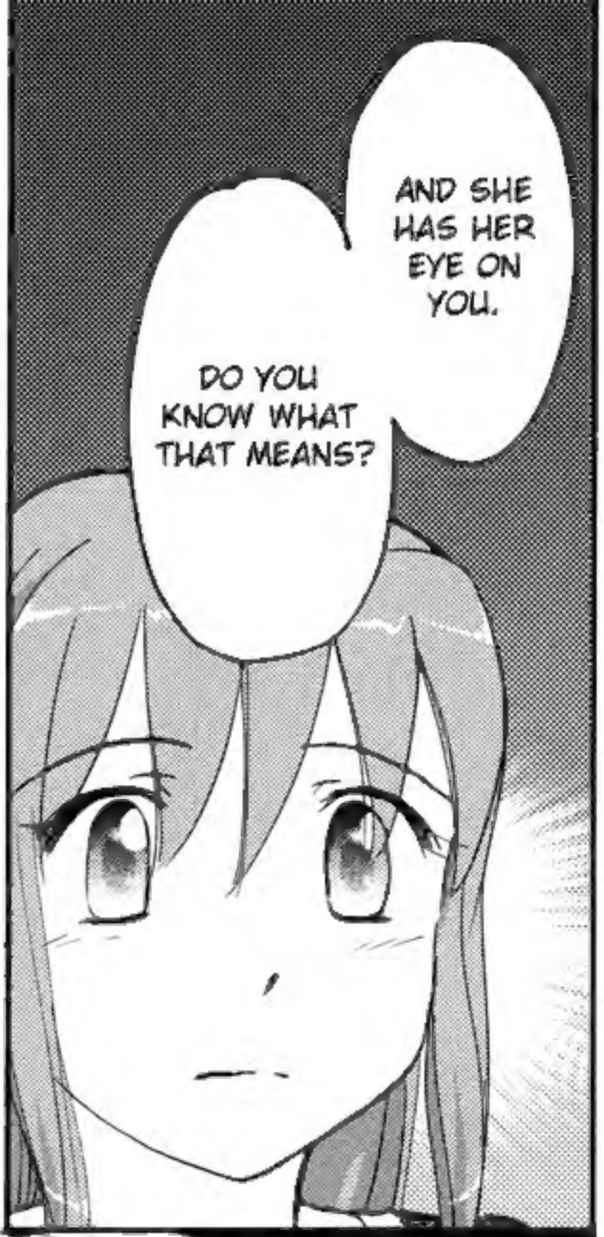
BUT WHEN THEY WERE PASSING OUT SURVEYS FOR OUR ASPIRATIONS, I... I...
BY THE TIME I'M EIGHTEEN, I'M SURE EVEN I'LL BE ABLE TO GROW A BEARD.
IF THAT WAS ALL, I COULD LIVE WITH IT.


W- WELL,
THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO WORK OUT YOURSELF, AKEMIYA-KUN.
HAH——AHA
BO——NG
BO——NG
BO——NG
I ended up writing "Bride"!
HM——MM
I bet he'd look good in a wedding dress...


Clack
COME ON IN. I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU.
I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR DISBELIEF.
EVEN IF YOU'RE WEARING A SKIRT, JUST DO IT WITH GUSTO...
SEE?
FLIP
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.
AKEMI-CHAN, STAND UP FOR A SECOND.
It truly is difficult to believe...
I see. This child is quite the rare find.
WELL? I KNOW IT'S NOTHING MUCH TO LOOK AT, BUT HE'S STILL A BOY.
THIS IS OUR LITTLE SECRET, OF COURSE. NOT THAT ANYONE WOULD BELIEVE IT WITHOUT SEEING IT FOR THEMSELVES.

I'M REALLY SORRY AKEMI-CHAN!!
AH AHA HA!
NOO
OOO!
SO WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU NEED FROM ME?
YOU'VE GOT QUITE A SHRIEK AND A SLAP TO MATCH!
YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO PLAY A GIRL.
WE'VE ASKED HER TO PRODUCE OUR MAGAZINE'S PORTION OF THE TGF.
Nice to meet you, Akemi.
Oh, right.
THIS IS THE FAMED FILMMAKER AND PRODUCER DROSSEL VON MUNCHHAUSEN.

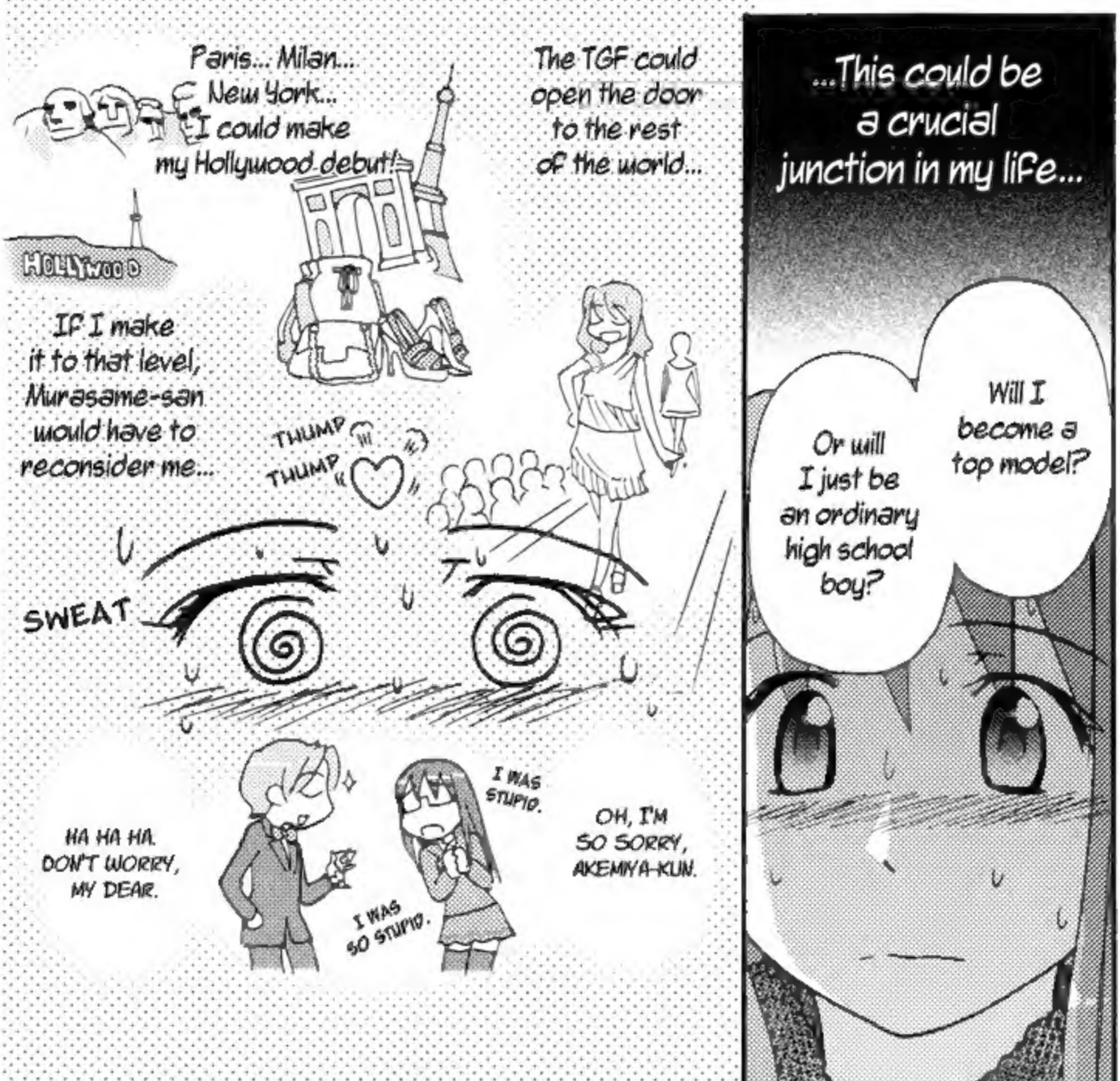

THE TGF, THE TOKYO GIRLS' FAIR!
A GLAMOROUS RUNWAY SHOW INCLUDING ALL THE MOST POPULAR TEEN FASHION MAGAZINES.
SUPPORTED BY VARIOUS BRAND NAME SHOPS AND FEATURING ALL OF THE TOP JUNIOR MODELS, THIS INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS EVENT IS A STEPPING STONE FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BE ANYONE.


AND SHE HAS HER EYE ON YOU.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

What do you say...?

Will you entrust me
With your body for a while?

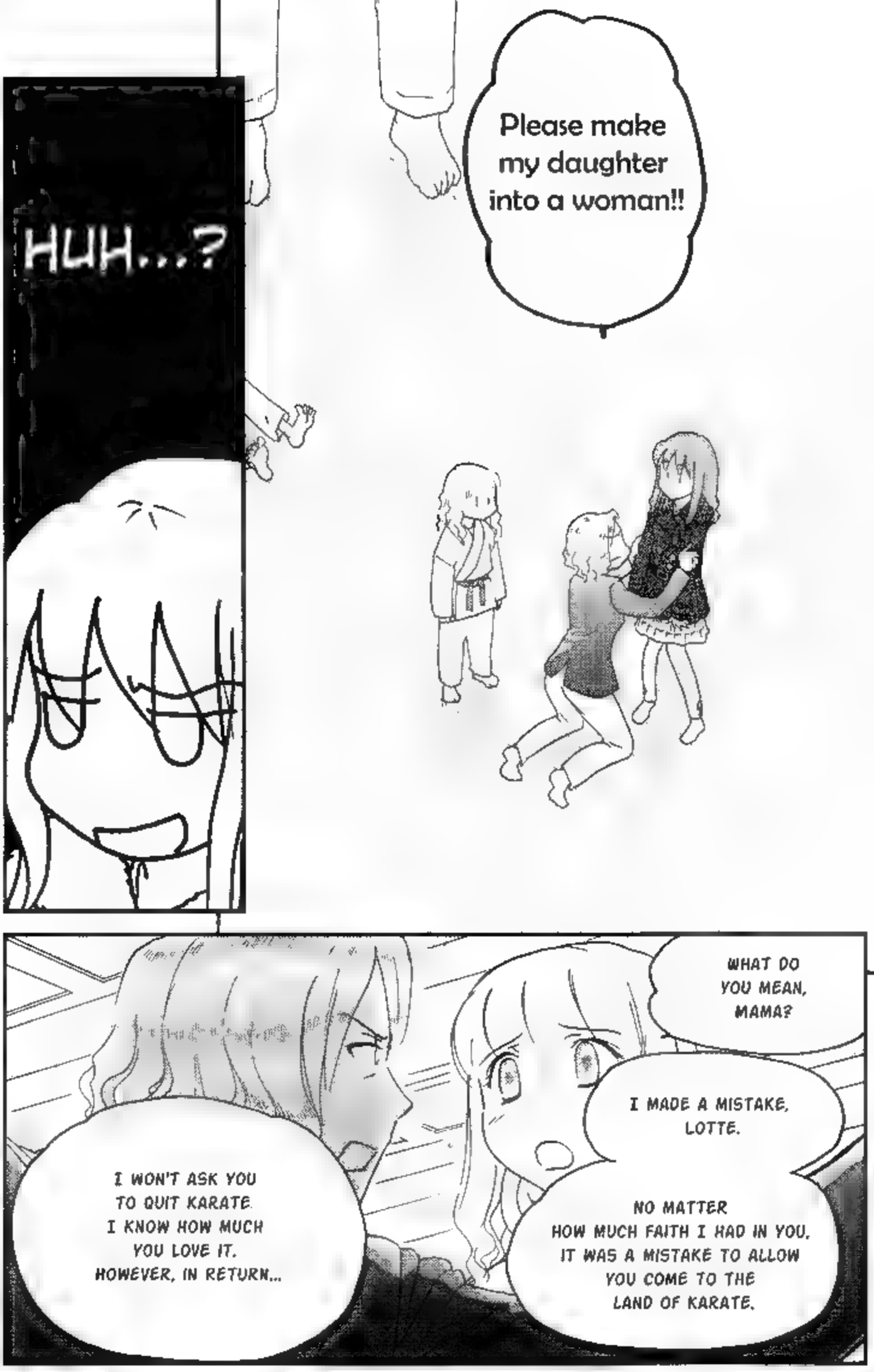
RUM
BLE
R
U
S
H

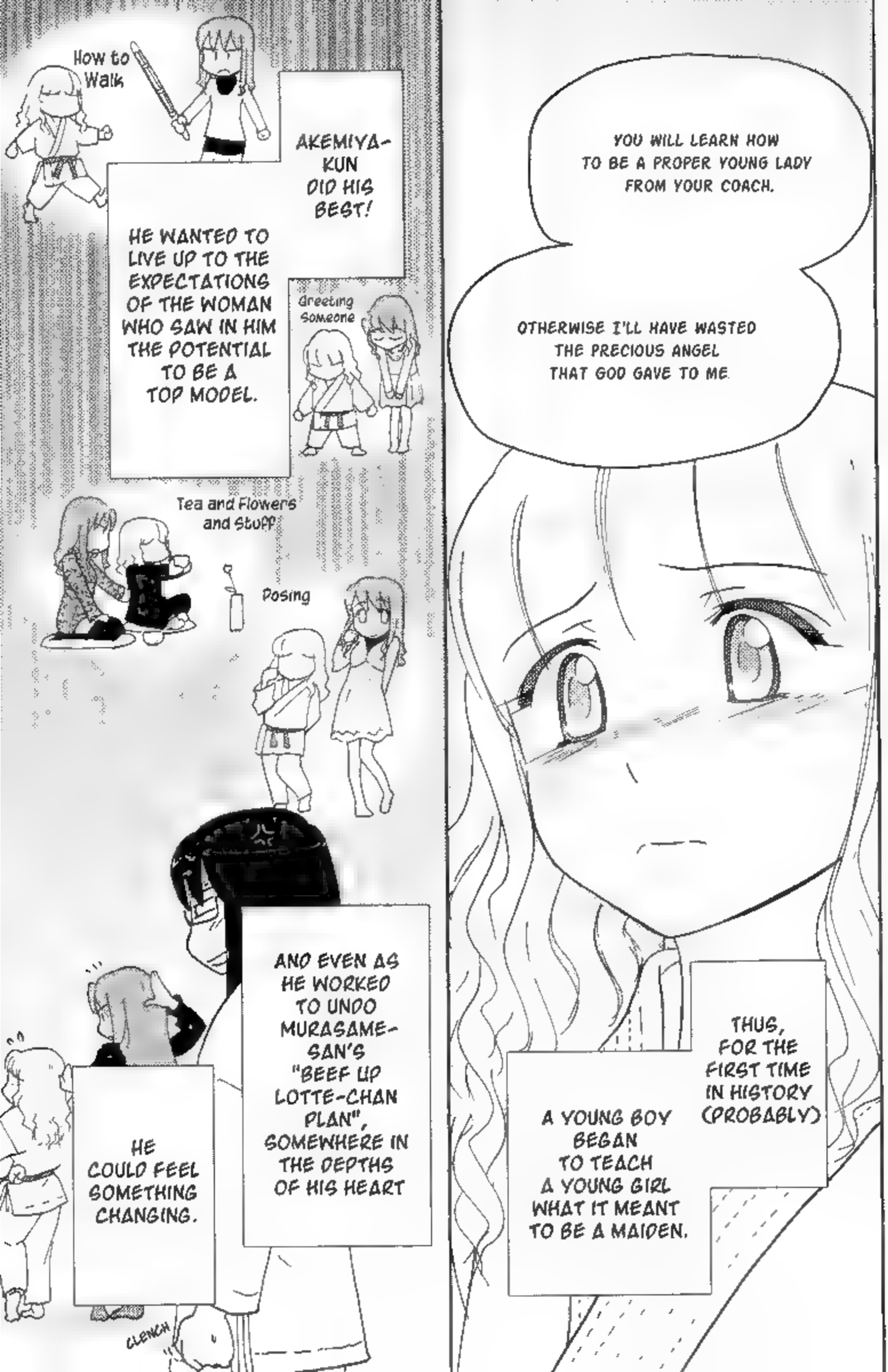

Paris... Milan... New York... I could make my Hollywood debut!
The TGF could open the door to the rest of the world...
HOLLYWOOD
IF I make it to that level, Murasame-san would have to reconsider me...
THUMP THUMP
SWEAT
HA HA HA. DON'T WORRY, MY DEAR.
I WAS STUPID.
I WAS SO STUPID.
OH, I'M SO SORRY, AKEMIYA-KUN.
...This could be a crucial junction in my life...
Will I become a top model?
Or will I just be an ordinary high school boy?

I wonder if I'll ever escape from this...
You have nothing to fear.
AHAHA. AKEMIYA-KUN, YOU'RE SO LIGHT. I'LL CARRY YOU AROUND THE WORLD AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WANT.
That's backwards! Flip it!
Come on!
We'll go on a honeymoon around the world!
Even if that treasure is not what we had in mind...
God grants each of us a single treasure.
Is that how it works?
We must not allow it to go to waste.

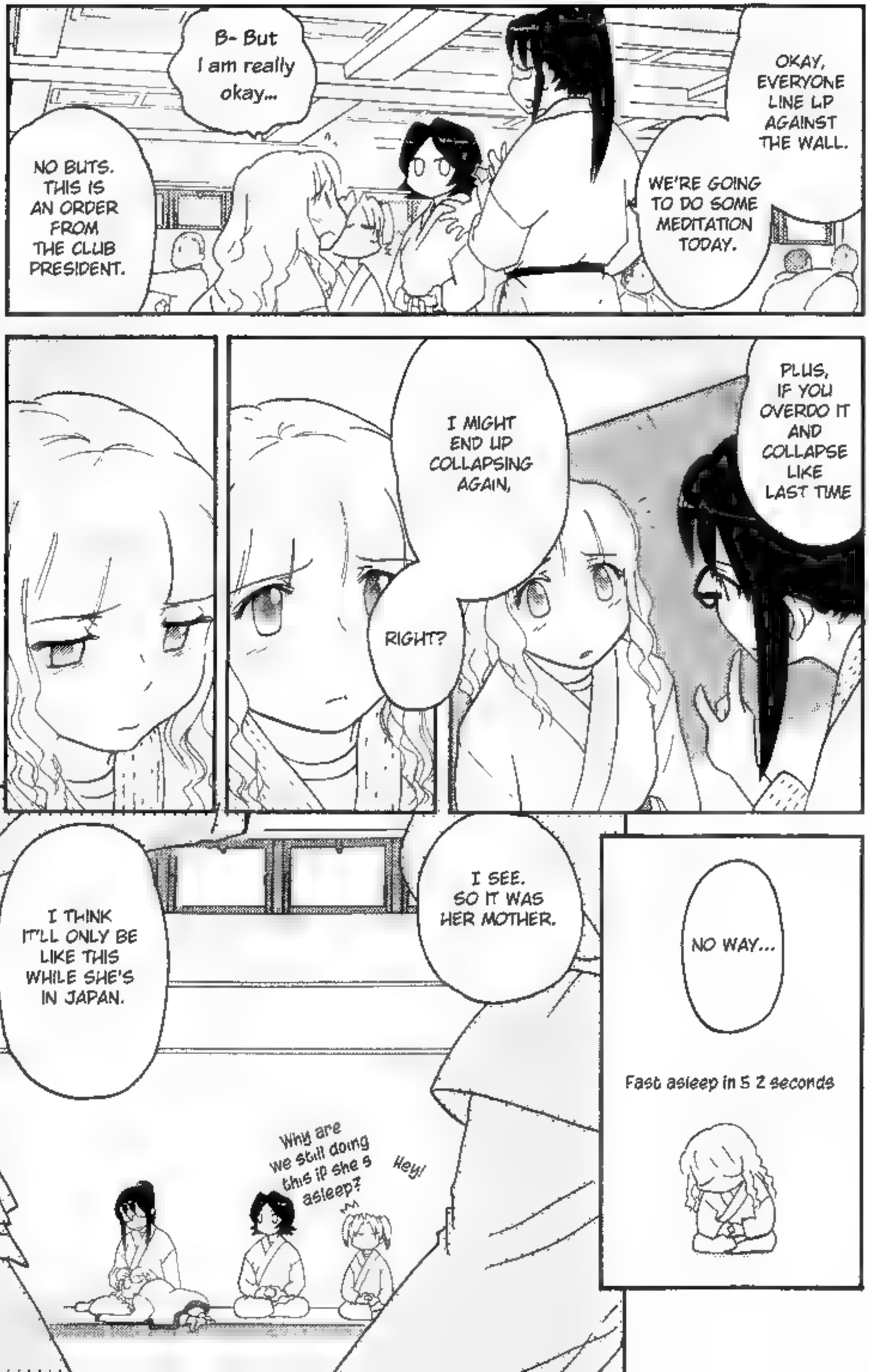
The light is still on in the dojo!
Goodness. He just arrived and he is already at it...
UM...
SLAM
VRRRR
AHHHH
DEAR!!
STOMP STOMP
I'll just be on my...
U-UM...
Throw
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU THAT LOTTE WAS NOT TO DO KARATE WHILE I WAS IN JAPAN...

W- WHO KNOWS?
AKEMIYA ... I MEAN, AKEMI-CHAN
FLIP
WHAT'S WITH THAT LADY?
I- I'M SORRY, MAMA!
Oops...
TUMBLE
ARE YOU OKAY, DOROTHY-SAN!?
I KNEW..
WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE LET YOU COME TO JAPAN.
IN JUST SIX MONTHS, YOU'VE ALREADY BECOME SO VIOLENT...
RUMBLE
But Mama
YOU'RE LOTTE-CHAN'S MOTHER?
Glare
Akemi!
I ask you as a man!!
GRAB


Please make my daughter into a woman!!
HUH...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MAMA?
I MADE A MISTAKE, LOTTE.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH FAITH I HAD IN YOU, IT WAS A MISTAKE TO ALLOW YOU COME TO THE LAND OF KARATE.
I WON'T ASK YOU TO QUIT KARATE. I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE IT. HOWEVER, IN RETURN...


How to Walk
AKEMIYA-KUN DID HIS BEST!
HE WANTED TO LIVE UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE WOMAN WHO SAW IN HIM THE POTENTIAL TO BE A TOP MODEL.
Greeting Someone
Tea and Flowers and Stuff
Posing
AND EVEN AS HE WORKED TO UNDO MURASAME-SAN'S "BEEF UP LOTTE-CHAN PLAN", SOMEWHERE IN THE DEPTHS OF HIS HEART
HE COULD FEEL SOMETHING CHANGING.
CLENCH
YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO BE A PROPER YOUNG LADY FROM YOUR COACH.
OTHERWISE I'LL HAVE WASTED THE PRECIOUS ANGEL THAT GOD GAVE TO ME.
A YOUNG BOY BEGAN TO TEACH A YOUNG GIRL WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A MAIDEN.
THUS, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY (PROBABLY)

I cannot hear you.
WOBBLE
Hey. What is wrong?
WELL, YOU KNOW...
SHE HAS A BIT OF A FAMILY SITUATION.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT?
TREMBLE
So
WEAK
STAGGER
STAGGER
I am not worn out.
I am no frail little angel.
Ne~
-in~
OH, LOTTE.
IF YOU'RE WORN OUT, DON'T OVERDO IT. YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK.
WOBBLE

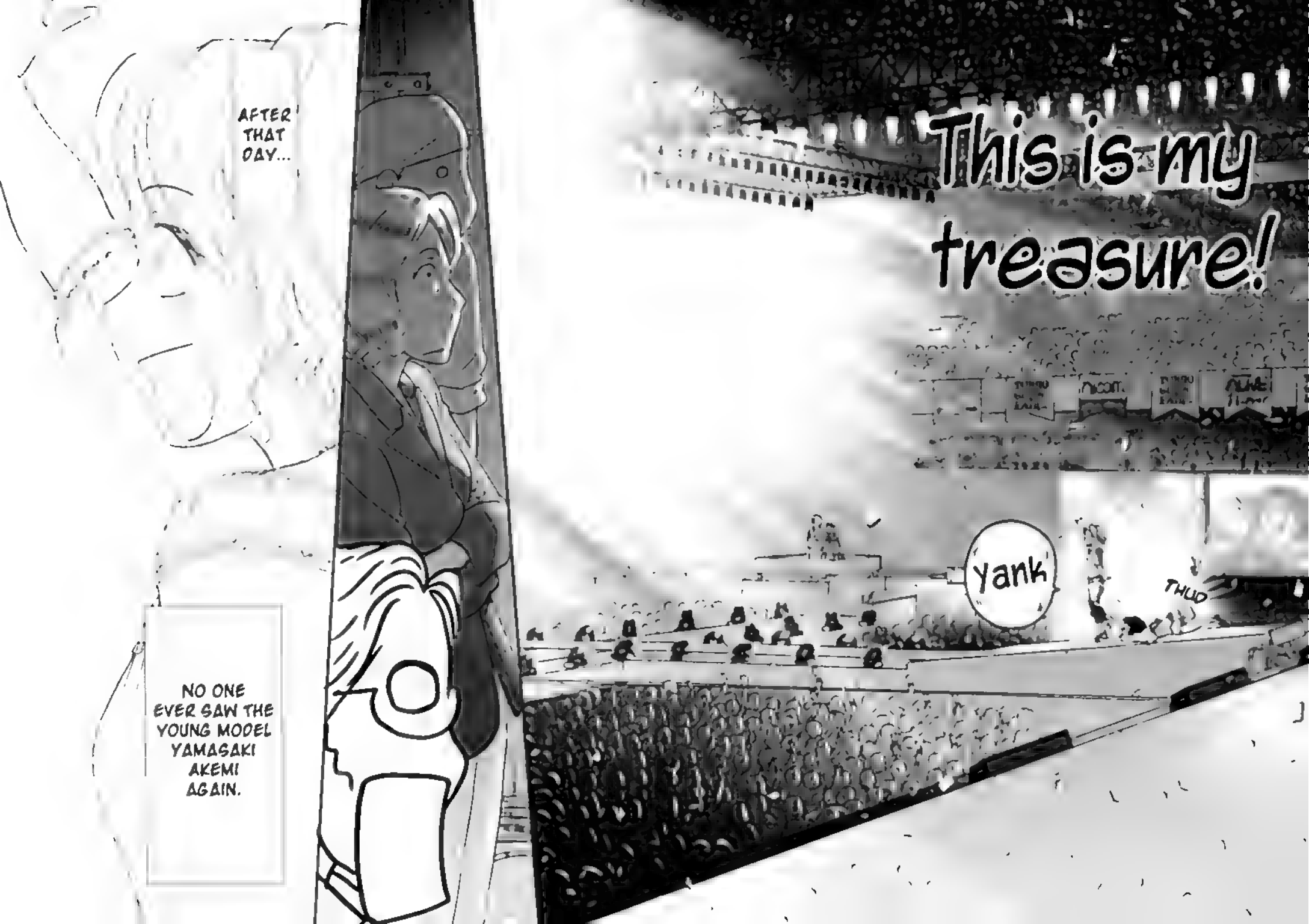

B- But I am really okay...
NO BUTS. THIS IS AN ORDER FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT.
OKAY, EVERYONE LINE UP AGAINST THE WALL.
WE'RE GOING TO DO SOME MEDITATION TODAY.
I MIGHT END UP COLLAPSING AGAIN,
RIGHT?
PLUS, IF YOU OVERDO IT AND COLLAPSE LIKE LAST TIME
I THINK IT'LL ONLY BE LIKE THIS WHILE SHE'S IN JAPAN.
I SEE. SO IT WAS HER MOTHER.
NO WAY...
Fast asleep in 5 2 seconds
Why are we still doing this if she's asleep?
Hey!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO CHANGE
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT HARD WORK CAN GET YOU THERE.
zzz
WELL, WHETHER YOU'RE THE TYPE OR NOT...
Hm.
But then there's Kasasa-san...
More like a doll.
HONESTLY, SHE DOESN'T REALLY LOOK LIKE THE KARATE TYPE
LOVE ISN'T SOME KIND OF SCIENCE.
IT JUST KIND OF HAPPENS.
My treasure...
...A gift from God.

What I'm doing

Most people can never stand on this stage.

Stand proud.
KYAAAAA!
The whole world has its eyes on you!
SLIP
AH!
Ugh, my heart is about to jump out of my chest.
EVERYONE, LET'S TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS!
ALIVE,
STANDBY
YEAH!!
はい!!


AFTER THAT DAY...
NO ONE EVER SAW THE YOUNG MODEL YAMASAKI AKEMI AGAIN.
This is my treasure!
yank
THUD

FR
OWN
I'M USED TO SEEING YOU LIKE THIS WHENEVER YOU WEAR THESE KINDS OF CLOTHES.
AND I MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT OVERBEARING THIS TIME.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE LIKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE SEEING THEM OFF.
COME ON, LOTTE.
It is all right, Sumika.
Bw
Huge
kuss!
GOODBYE FOR NOW, MY LITTLE ANGEL.
NEXT TIME I COME TO VISIT, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO STAY A WHILE LONGER.

DESPITE HOW I MAY LOOK...
I'M PRETTY UPSET ABOUT HOW THINGS WENT WITH MY WORK.
I DON'T CARE...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY LONG.
CAN'T I AT LEAST SEE YOU SMILE?
PLEASE, LOTTE.
GRIT
TELL ME THAT YOU LOVE ME JUST AS MUCH
EVEN WHEN I'M WEARING A KARATE GI.
THEN...
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK TOO.

I'D LIKE THAT MUCH BETTER!
SILLY GIRL...
I LOVE YOU NO MATTER WHAT YOU WEAR!
THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF PROTECTED YAMASAKI AKEMI'S TRUE IDENTITY WITH HER LIFE
Brother, food.
SO THAT AKEMIYA-KUN COULD STILL SHOW HIS FACE IN PUBLIC

Sasameki Koto

By Ikeda Tai[illegible]

Part 45 It's Like Her Treasure

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さくらめいこと 5

いけだたかし

今、浮かれないでいつ浮かれる！

MFコミックス アライブシリーズ

好　評　発　売　中

あそびにいくヨ! ①〜⑤(以下続刊)　888　原作 神野オキナ キャラクター原案 放電映像

いいなり!! 吸血姫①〜②(以下続刊)　草壁レイ

Oz　オズ　①〜②(以下続刊)　刻夜セイゴ　原作 岩井恭平

えむえむっ! ①〜②(以下続刊)　氷樹一世　原作 松野秋鳴 キャラクター原案 QP:flapper

CHAOS;HEAD-BLUE COMPLEX- 全2巻　沙垣長子　原作 ニトロプラス×5pb.

陰からマモル! ①〜⑤(以下続刊)　まだらさい　原作 阿智太郎

かのこん①〜⑦(以下続刊)　山木鈴　原作 西野かつみ キャラクター原案 雌印

神太刀女①〜④(以下続刊)　タスクオーナ　原作 鳥我井徹

きゅーきゅーキュート!①〜②(以下続刊)　藤井理乃　原作 野島けんご キャラクター原案 武藤此史

クイーンズブレイド-流浪の戦士-①〜②(以下続刊)　吉川かば夫　原作 HobbyJAPAN

けんぷファー①〜③(以下続刊)　橘由宇　原作 猫地淑彦 キャラクター原案 せんむ

CODE:RED①　かみや草月

こあくまメレンゲ　あっと

ささめきこと①〜⑤(以下続刊)　いけだたかし

しはるじぇねしす①〜⑤(以下続刊)　近藤るるる

聖剣の刀鍛冶①　山田孝太郎　原作 二浦勇雄 キャラクター原案 景虎

聖戦テイルズ 全2巻　土土大介

ゼロの使い魔 ①〜⑥(以下続刊)　望月奈々　原作 ヤマグチノボル キャラクター原案 兎塚エイジ

ゼロの使い魔外伝 タバサの冒険①〜③(以下続刊)　今拓人　原作 ヤマグチノボル キャラクター原案 兎塚エイジ

総天然色乙女組 全2巻　みなづき忍

ティアーズトゥ・ティアラ-花冠の大地-①　城爪草　原作 アクアプラス

ディーふらぐ!①　春野友矢

デイドリームネイション①〜②(以下続刊)　kashmir

ナルキッソス①　江戸屋ぽち　原作 片岡とも

ねじまき星とアオイソラ　刻夜セイゴ

ノロマジョ①　青本もあ

バーバ・ヤガー①　きづきあきら+サトウナンキ

Parabellum -パラベラム- 全3巻　吉岡榊

Phantom ~Requiem for the Phantom~ ①〜②(以下続刊)　柊征葵　原作 ニトロプラス

ぷいぷい! 全3巻　なもり　原作 夏緒

ぷにりな!　新久保だいすけ

プリンセスラバー!　由雅なおは　原作 Ricotta

ブレイクハンズ〜星石を継ぐ者〜 全3巻　佐々木ミノル

まじしゃんず あかでみい①〜②(以下続刊)　仲尾ひとみ　原作 神一郎 キャラクター原案 BLADE

まりあ†ほりっく①〜④(以下続刊)　遠藤海成

蟲と眼球とテディベア全6巻　浅見百合子　原作 日日日 キャラクター原案 三月まうす

モモタノハナ　井ノ本リカ子

乱刃①　空十雲

ロゼッタ ～薔薇の聖十字騎士～①　吉岡榊

ほか

Sasameki Koto 5

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Afterword

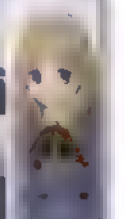
Useless Addition *25

THAT AKEMI-CHAN WAS ACTUALLY A GUY!
HEY, DID YOU HEAR THE BIG NEWS?
but if these obstacles keep disappearing one by one, some day...
Hahaha! I feel for Akemiya-kun,
W- WOW. REALLY? I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED IT (STIFF)
I CAN'T EVEN TRUST MY OWN EYES ANY MORE...
USHIO-CHAN, YOU MUST BE PRETTY DOWN ABOUT IT, HUH?
HEY, I KNOW!
THAT ISN'T REALLY NECESSARY
ACTUALLY
The KYO in Kyori-chan is for
Keep Your nose Out of it!
WHEN WE'VE ALL GOT SOME FREE TIME, LET'S GO ON A CUTE GIRL HUNTING TOUR!

MFコミックス
alive
SERIES

ささめきこと 5

いけだたかし



ささめきこと 5

いけだたかし

MEDIA FACTORY

MFコミックス
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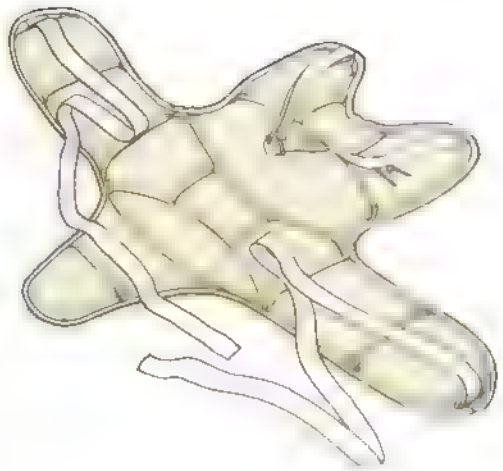
雑誌52648-16
メディアファクトリー

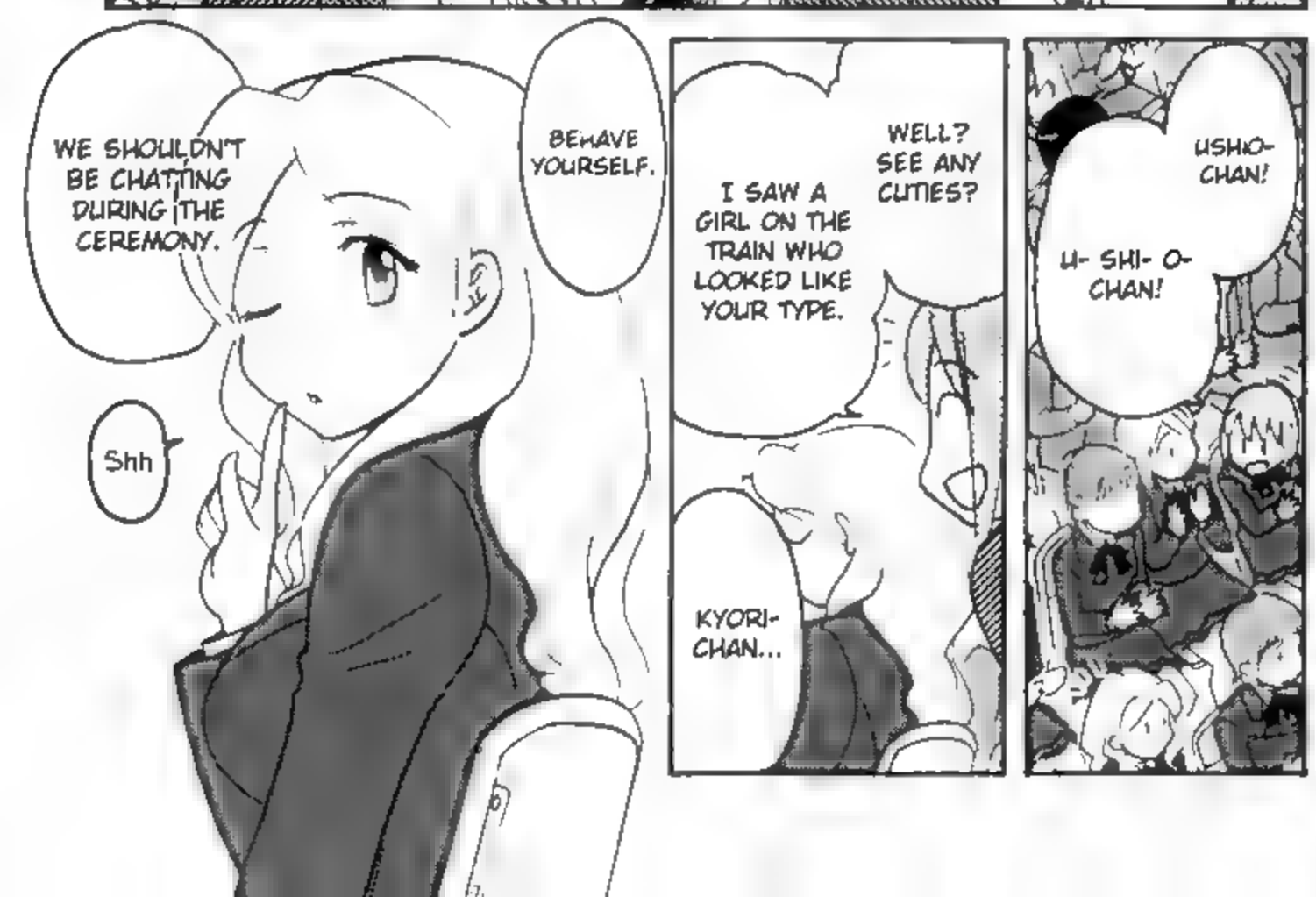
純夏に対する気持ちを自覚し始めた汐だが、あくまで「友人」であり続けることを選択した汐は、その情熱を胸の奥に秘める。

一方、新年度を迎えて部員の勧誘に余念がないのは、「女子空手同好会」の面々。

彼女達を横目に、汐の受験勉強は日々物騒がしくなっていく…



WOW
PLEASE WELCOME THE NEW STUDENTS
WELCOME CEREMONY
UMEDA PREFECTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
ENTRANCE CEREMONY
CLAP CLAP CLAP
UPPERCLASSMEN, PLEASE WELCOME IN THE NEW STUDENTS WITH A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

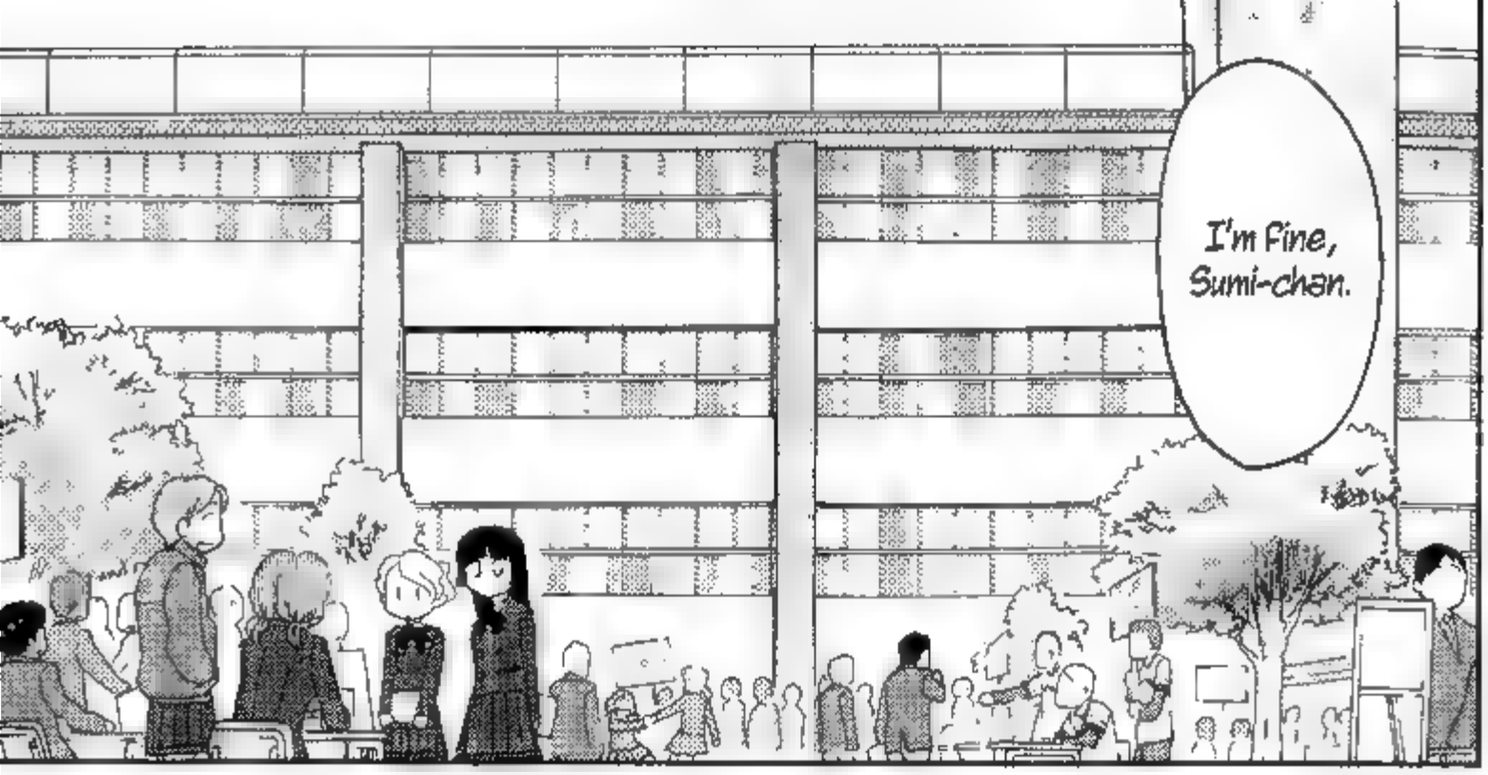

WE SHOULDN'T BE CHATTING DURING THE CEREMONY.
BEHAVE YOURSELF.
Shh
WELL? SEE ANY CUTIES?
I SAW A GIRL ON THE TRAIN WHO LOOKED LIKE YOUR TYPE.
KYORI-CHAN...
USHIO-CHAN!
U- SHI- O-CHAN!

Part 26 smile for you
WHOA!
USHIO-CHAN IS CALM!!
WE BECAME 2ND YEAR STUDENTS.

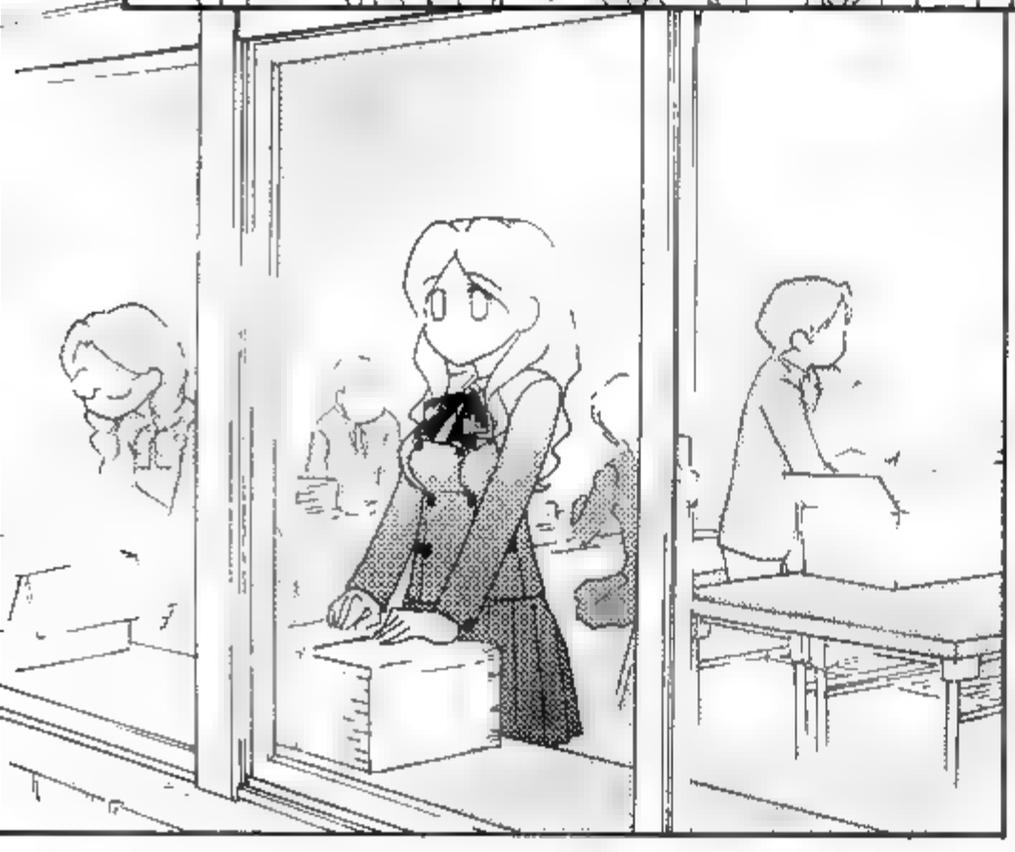
JUST LIKE WE DID EXACTLY ONE YEAR AGO...
FILLED WITH HOPES AND UNCERTAINTIES, BEGAN THEIR NEW HIGH SCHOOL LIVES
ON THAT WARM SPRING DAY, THOSE MANY NEW STUDENTS

I CAN'T BELIEVE USHIO-CHAN WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN CUTE GIRLS.
IT JUST ISN'T RIGHT, I TELL YOU.
MAYBE THERE WEREN'T ANY WORTH LOOKING AT?
Tsk Tsk
I CAN'T REMAIN THAT WAY FOREVER.
HEHEHE. KYORI-CHAN, MIYAKO-CHAN.
I DON'T KNOW OF ANYONE "REFINED" THAT DOES A PEACE SIGN.
R- REALLY?
Slightly impressed
Wow—
FROM NOW ON, WE HAVE TO USE OUR REFINED ONEE-SAMA APPEAL AND MAKE THE ENEMY COME TO US!
WE'RE 2ND YEAR STUDENTS NOW.
Cool & Beauty

WELL...
UH...
That is.
WHAT?
OH...
KAZAMA.
ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT! IF YOU'RE DONE CLEANING, GET BACK TO CLASS.
ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME I'M UNREFINED TOO!?
EL
BOW
COME ON, SUMI-CHAN!
WHOOPS.
REFINED. REFINED.
DON'T WORRY.

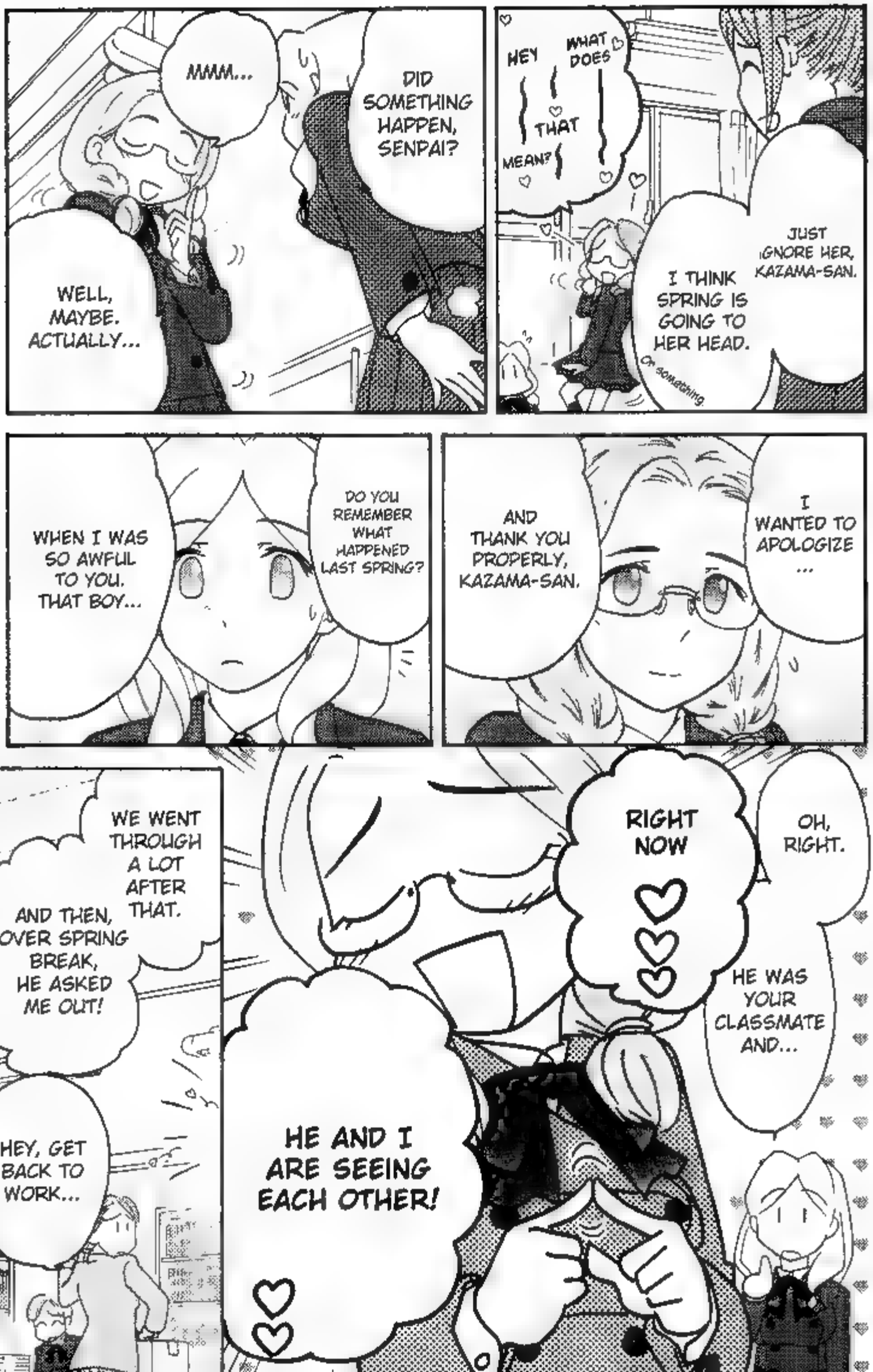

I'm fine, Sumi-chan.

KARATE CLUB
GIRLS' CLUB



GIRLS' CLUB

Natural...
Sigh
I didn't seem unnatural, did I?
Do you mind?
...I'm fine.
...Right?
YOU'RE IN LOVE, AREN'T YOU, KAZAMA-SAN?
SE-
S- S- S- S- SENPAI!?
THAT DISTANT GAZE! THAT PENSIVE SIGH!
IT'S LOVE, ISN'T IT!? IT'S SPRING, ISN'T IT, KAZAMA-SAN!?


MMM...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN, SENPAI?
WELL, MAYBE. ACTUALLY...
HEY
WHAT DOES
THAT
MEAN?
I THINK SPRING IS GOING TO HER HEAD.
JUST IGNORE HER, KAZAMA-SAN.
OR SOMETHING
WHEN I WAS SO AWFUL TO YOU. THAT BOY...
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED LAST SPRING?
AND THANK YOU PROPERLY, KAZAMA-SAN.
I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE ...
WE WENT THROUGH A LOT AFTER THAT.
AND THEN, OVER SPRING BREAK, HE ASKED ME OUT!
HEY, GET BACK TO WORK...
HE AND I ARE SEEING EACH OTHER!
RIGHT NOW
OH, RIGHT.
HE WAS YOUR CLASSMATE AND...

But hearing about this doesn't bother me at all.

I liked her so much.

NO WAY!

Girls...

IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU!

WELL ...

I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.

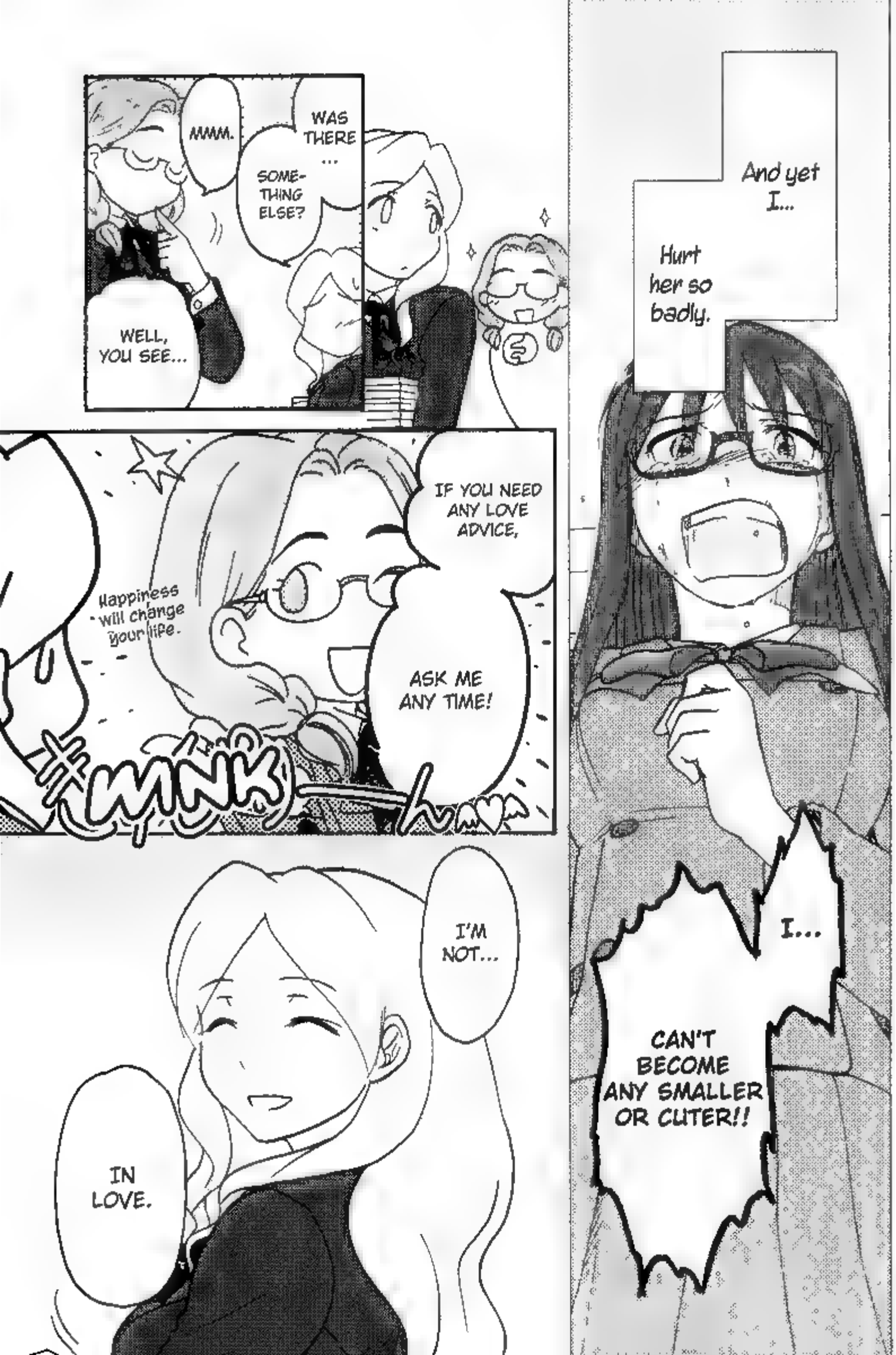
Strange ...

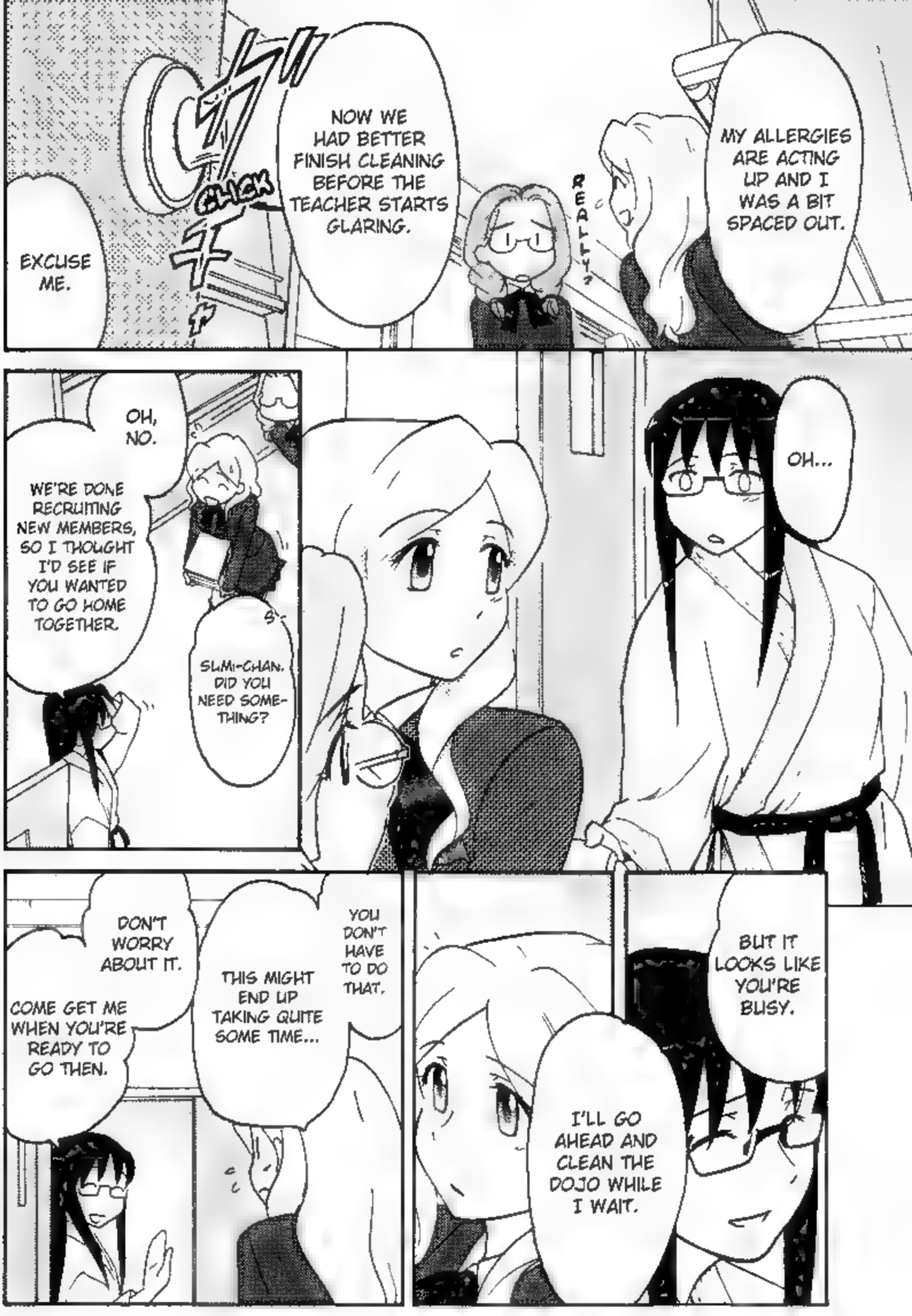
Sumi-chan was there to support me.

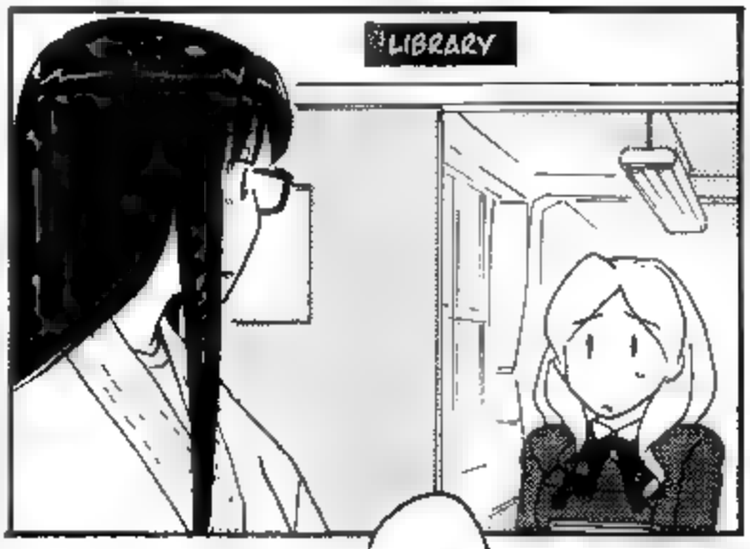
Back then,

Gently holding my hand.

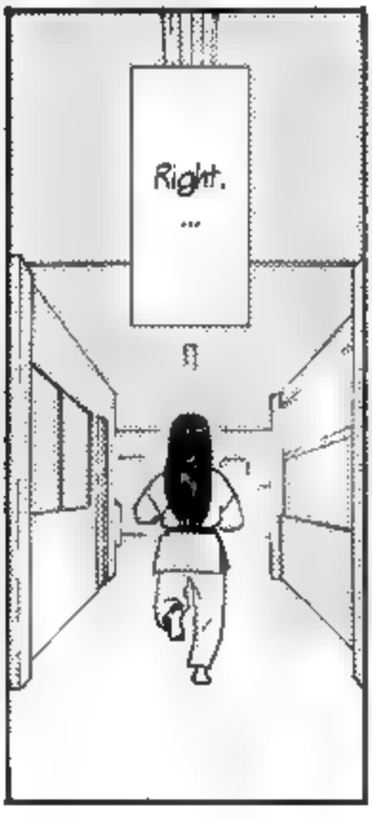
Sumi-chan was always there for me. Right by my side...


And yet I...
Hurt her so badly.
I...
CAN'T BECOME ANY SMALLER OR CUTER!!
MMM.
WAS THERE ...
SOME-THING ELSE?
WELL, YOU SEE...
IF YOU NEED ANY LOVE ADVICE,
Happiness will change your life.
ASK ME ANY TIME!
WINK
I'M NOT...
IN LOVE.


EXCUSE ME.
CHICK
NOW WE HAD BETTER FINISH CLEANING BEFORE THE TEACHER STARTS GLARING.
REALLY?
MY ALLERGIES ARE ACTING UP AND I WAS A BIT SPACED OUT.
OH, NO.
WE'RE DONE RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS, SO I THOUGHT I'D SEE IF YOU WANTED TO GO HOME TOGETHER.
SUMI-CHAN. DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?
OH...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
COME GET ME WHEN YOU'RE READY TO GO THEN.
THIS MIGHT END UP TAKING QUITE SOME TIME...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
I'LL GO AHEAD AND CLEAN THE DOJO WHILE I WAIT.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE BUSY.



This isn't love.

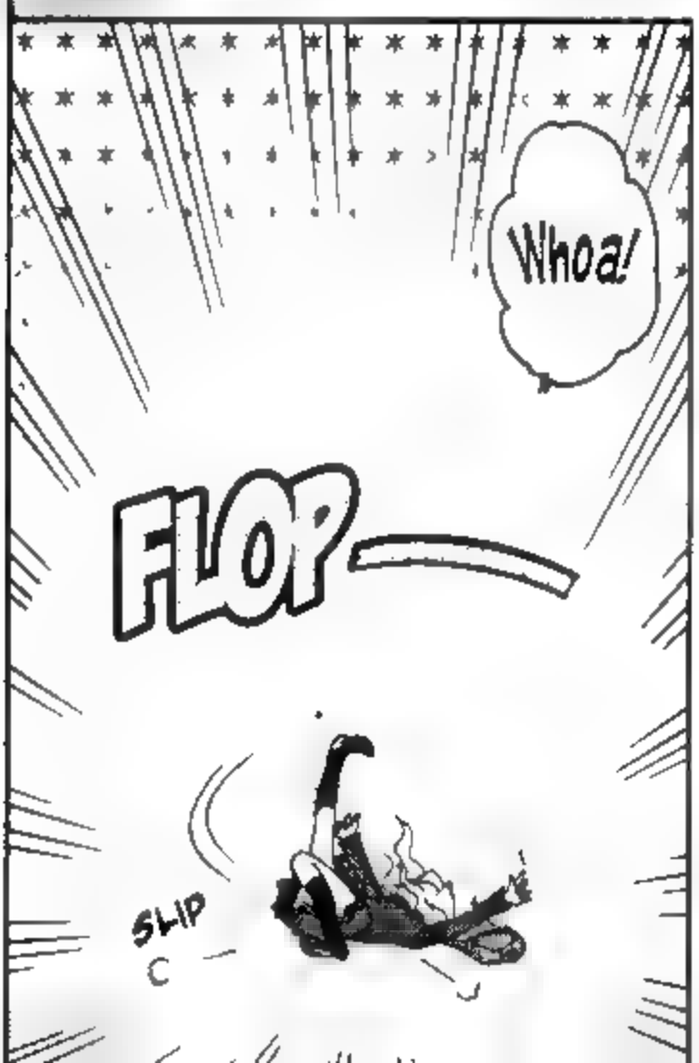


Because love...

Will always Fall apart.

SUMI-CHAN!
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT!
NO PROBLEM.
LOTTE-CHAN ISN'T WITH YOU?
OH, SHE ALREADY LEFT.
SHE WAS WORN OUT FROM BEING TOYED WITH BY THE NEW STUDENTS.
I'LL GO GET CHANGED.
WHEN'S THE NEXT BUS?
ABOUT 15 MINUTES.

Now that I think about it, I really haven't seen Sumi-chan practicing karate much.
This place smells different than Sumi-chan's house.
Is it the wooden floor?
I went to cheer for her once at a match, but it was so overwhelming that I never went again.


Whoa!
FLOP
SLIP

YAH-!
HI...

PFF
He he he
OUCH...
DON'T MIND ME.
I JUST HAPPENED TO COME BACK AT THE RIGHT TIME.
Seriously.
EVEN THOUGH I HURT MYSELF, YOU WERE SNEAKING AROUND LIKE THAT.
Dsshhh
I SAID I'M SORRY, KAZAMA.
I'M REALLY SORRY!
IS THAT PART OF BEING...
A REFINED ONEE-SAMA?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF...
NOT AROUND ME, AT LEAST.
...I'M NOT FORCING MYSELF.
I'M REALLY NOT.
YOU ARE, KAZAMA!
EVER SINCE LAST AUTUMN, YOU HAVE BEEN...

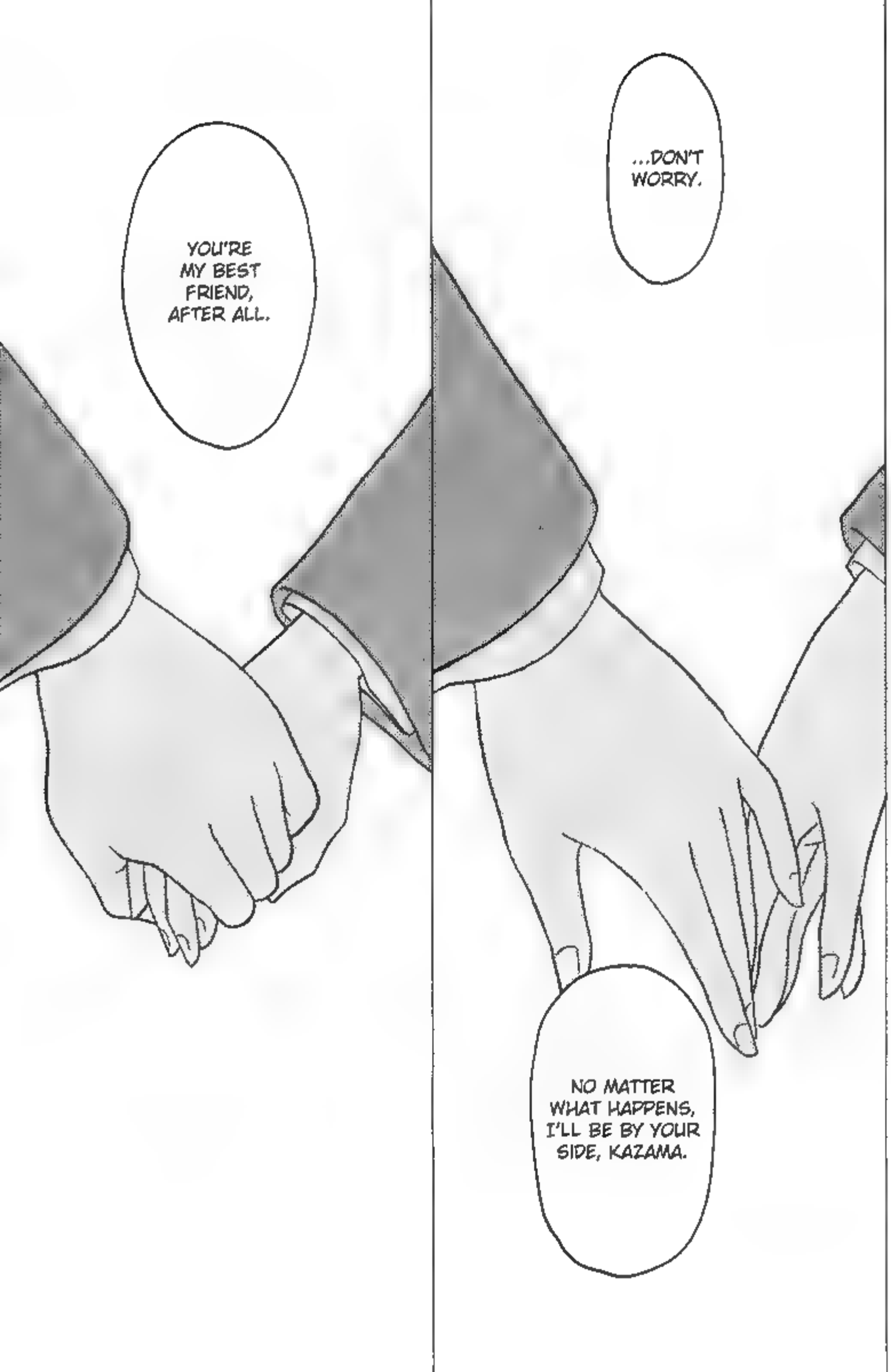
EVER SINCE I SHOUTED THOSE TERRIBLE THINGS AT YOU.
I WAS PUTTING THE BLAME ON YOU... BUT...
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOURSELF FROM GETTING EXCITED WHEN YOU SEE CUTE GIRLS.
I KNOW YOU'RE FORCING YOURSELF NOT TO-
YOU'RE WRONG!!

HAD A BIT OF AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX ABOUT IT.
NO, I JUST...
I WAS THE ONE WHO NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH I WAS HURTING YOU...
I WAS THE ONE WHO SAID TERRIBLE THINGS TO YOU!

THANKS. I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT YOU FEEL THAT WAY, KAZAMA.
YEAH, I KNOW.
BUT... BUT I...

I STILL LIKE YOU THE BEST WHEN YOU'RE YOUR USUAL SELF.
BUT YOU KNOW...

OH, WELL, WHEN I SAY LIKE... I JUST MEAN LIKE... NORMALLY.
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE THE MOST YOURSELF WHEN YOU'RE YOURSELF.
H- HUH? I GUESS THAT'S OBVIOUS. AHAHA. WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT? AHAHAHAHA...
OH, RIGHT. O- OF COURSE.
EHEHE. YOU SURPRISED ME.
GOING CRAZY WHEN YOU SEE A CUTE GIRL...
FALLING IN AND OUT OF LOVE... CRYING... LAUGHING... THAT'S THE USUAL YOU.
...I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BECOME SMALL OR CUTE,
BUT JUST LIKE YOU SAID BEFORE, EVEN IF WE DON'T HAVE THE SAME INTERESTS, YOU'RE OKAY WITH ME.
NEVER STOP BEING MY FRIEND.


YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND, AFTER ALL.
...DON'T WORRY.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE, KAZAMA.

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO SEE YOU SMILE.
Just a year ago...
I'm sure I was filled with hopes and uncertainties.

That it feels like only uncertainty is left?

So why is it...

my beloved best friend was thinking of me...

When I realized just how much

I struggled to remember how I had smiled up until now.

Sasameki Koto

By Ikeda Tai

Part 45 Style for You

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KOKOPURE

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MRENGENIOUS

I think of this as more of a December Release

- Casusby

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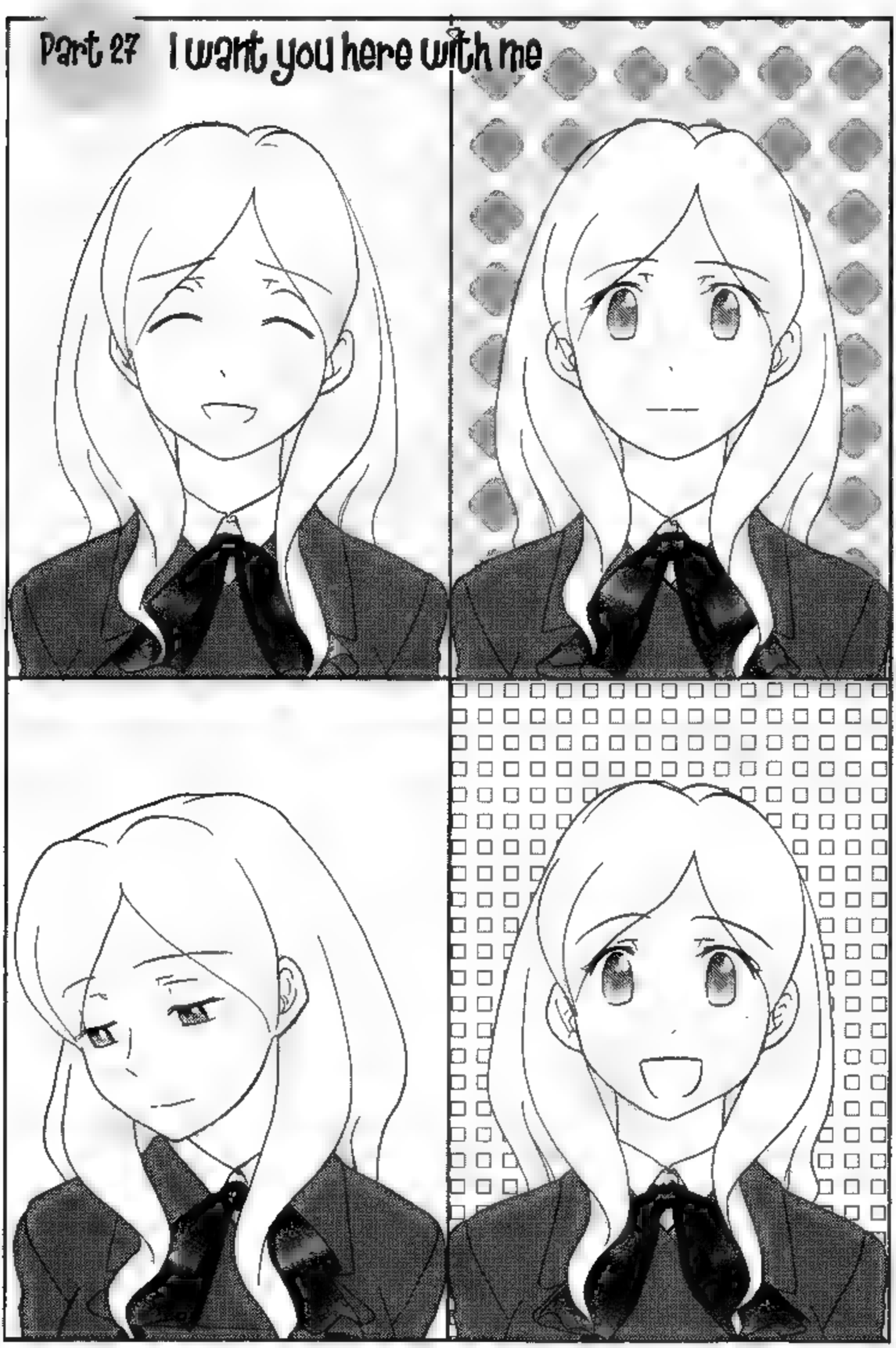
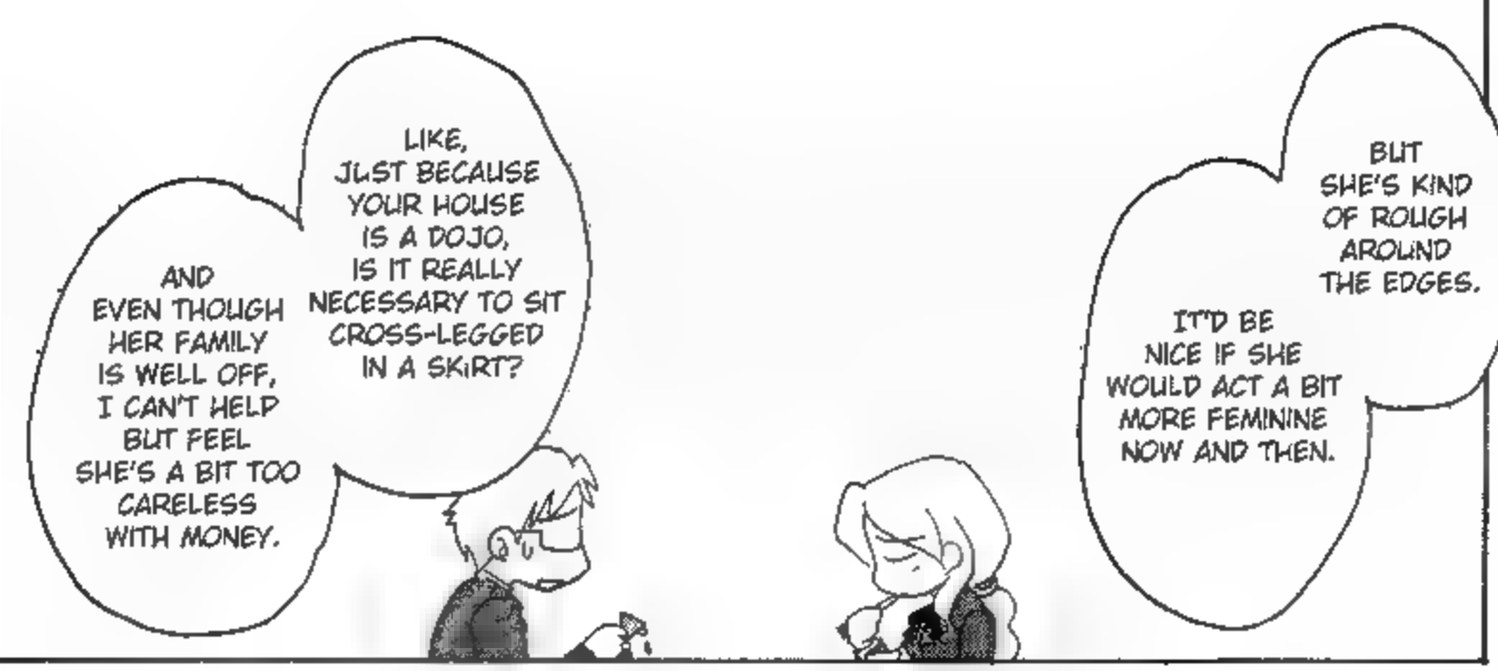
Useless Addition #26

SHHHHHH
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO JOIN A CLUB TOGETHER?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
TWIST
THIS ONE'S NO GOOD. THAT ONE'S NO GOOD.
GOODNESS, MAYU-CHAN.
GIRLS' BATHROOM
SO I WAS SIMPLY ADVISING YOU ON WHICH CLUBS HAD FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES.
I KNOW HOW BUSY YOU ARE AT HOME AND WITH YOUR PART-TIME JOB, KOI.
AUGH!
I- IT'S NOTHING!!
HM? WHAT WAS THAT?
I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
IF WE WERE IN THE SAME CLUB, I COULD PROTECT YOU... IF YOU WERE IN TROUBLE...
AND, YOU KNOW ...

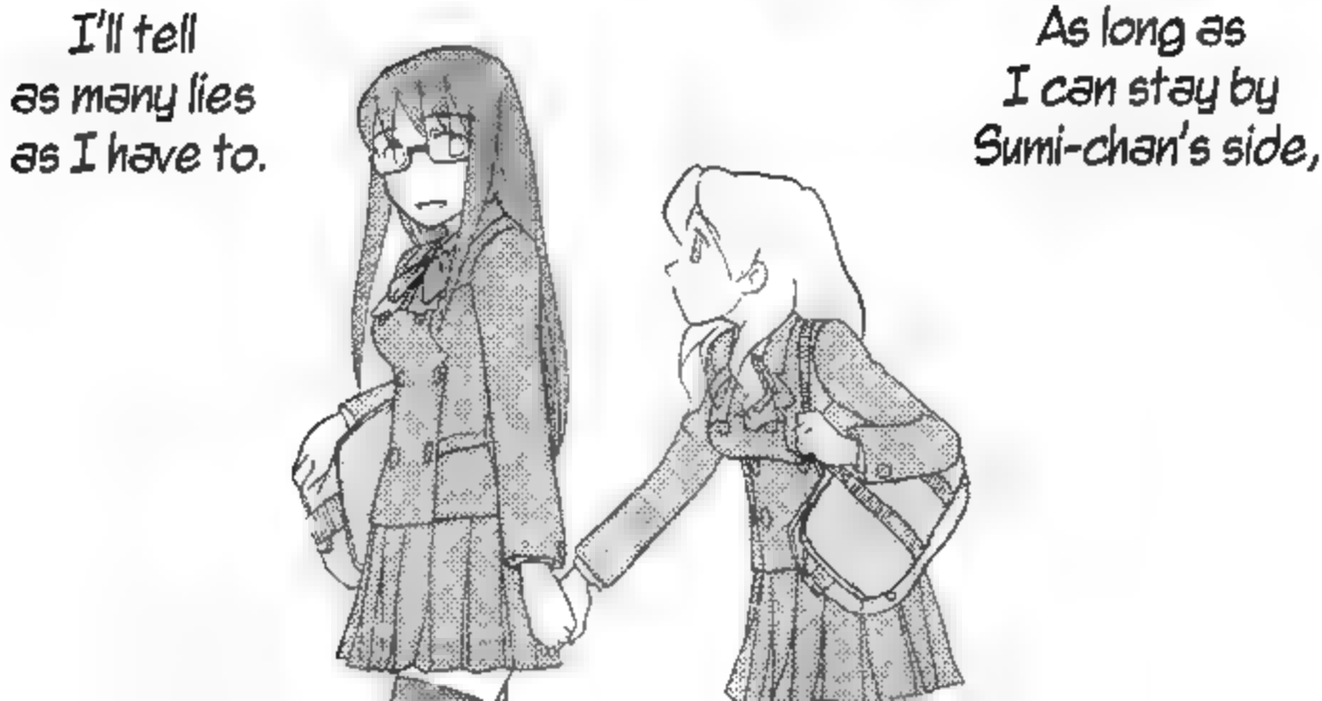
Part 27 I want you here with me



I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SUMIKA-CHAN, AFTER ALL.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU MEAN...
WELL, THAT'S FINE TOO...
OH, COULD YOU PASS THE SOY SAUCE?
IT'S BECAUSE SUMI-CHAN IS SO KIND...
SHE REALLY... CARES A LOT ABOUT ME...
Thanks.

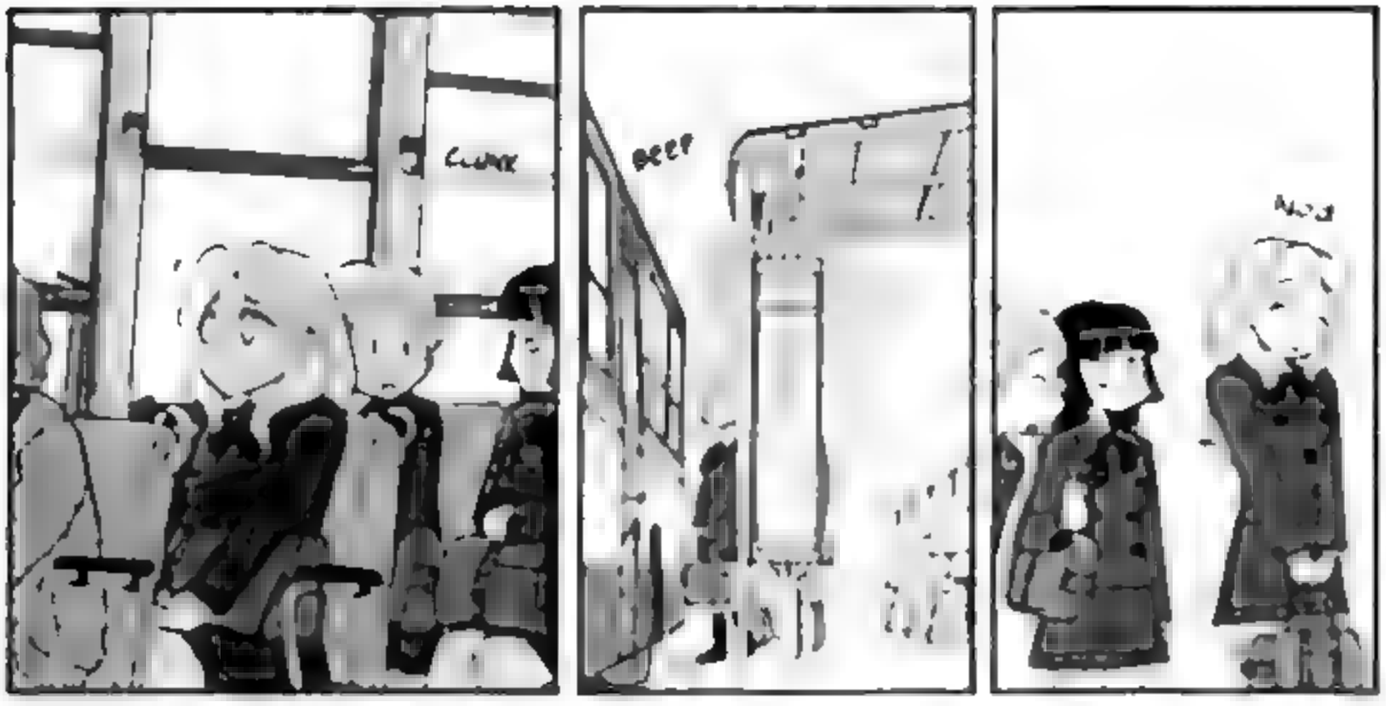

LIKE, JUST BECAUSE YOUR HOUSE IS A DOJO, IS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO SIT CROSS-LEGGED IN A SKIRT?
AND EVEN THOUGH HER FAMILY IS WELL OFF, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL SHE'S A BIT TOO CARELESS WITH MONEY.
BUT SHE'S KIND OF ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES.
IT'D BE NICE IF SHE WOULD ACT A BIT MORE FEMININE NOW AND THEN.

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
CLACK
JUST LEAVE ME BE...
BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT!


I'll tell as many lies as I have to.
As long as I can stay by Sumi-chan's side,

Ever since the Girls' Club started..
We hardly ever get to see each other going to and from school.
pretty much just on test days
YOUR FRIEND ISN'T WITH YOU THIS MORNING?
N- NO, SHE'S BUSY WITH HER CLUB
Whew
Pant
Pant
HEY, IT LOOKS LIKE THE BUS ISN'T HERE YET
Sigh
...So boring..
YOU'RE ALWAYS IN SUCH A HURRY, MAYU-CHAN.
WITH HOW SLOW YOU ARE, KOI, WE MIGHT NOT HAVE MADE IT IF WE DIDN'T.
WE DIDN'T NEED TO RUN
I TOLD YOU.
Pant

SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
She saw me yawning.
NOPE.
BUT SHE'S WEARING THE SAME UNIFORM AND LOOKS LIKE AN UPPER CLASSMAN.
HM? OH, HI.
GOOD MORNING.
HUH?
Are you going to put me through this every day?
What do you mean "Huh?"
Bow


CLUNK
BEEP

So long

GOOD MORNING, KAZAMA.
OH.

SUMI-CHAN?
WELL, YOU KNOW... ALL THAT MORNING PRACTICE REALLY MAKES YOU HUNGRY.
H- HEHE.
I CAN SEE WHERE KYORI-CHAN IS COMING FROM... OR SOMETHING.
PLUS YOU NEED MORE CALORIES BECAUSE YOU'RE SO FREAKING TALL.
SO DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW MEMBERS?
URP
UNFORTU-NATELY, NO.
I am to blame.
There, There.
I must make amends for my failure as vice-president...
WHAT DO YOU THINK...?
DO YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN GIVING IT A TRY, KAZAMA-KUN?

HM?
YOU WANT ME... TO TRY KARATE?
KAZAMA WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN SOMETHING VIOLENT LIKE KARATE. RIGHT, KAZAMA?
NO NEED TO BE SO RESTRAINED.
IT'S JUST A BIT OF LIGHT EXERCISE...
N... NO, NO, NO, NO, NO...
I... I'VE BEEN THERE FIVE TIMES OR SO...
Or was it two or three times?
YOU'VE HARDLY EVER SET FOOT IN THE DOJO...
I'VE SEEN YOU DOING IT, SO I'M A BIT INTERESTED...
THAT'S NOT TRUE...

SUMIKA?
FINE.
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
SO MAYBE SHE WAS UPSET YOU WEREN'T TAKING IT SERIOUSLY.
MURASAME-SAN IS A REAL MARTIAL ARTIST.
ARE WE NOT LOOKING FOR MORE MEMBERS?
SUMIKA!
Mmm.
SOME-THING ...
SEEMS TO HAVE GONE AMISS.
I'll do anything to be with Sumi-chan.
MUSIC ROOM
Interested? Come to the dojo!
GIRLS' KARATE CLUB
On paper anyway
Not around me, at least
You don't have to force yourself.
I'm not forcing myself.

I WAS THINKING, MAYU-CHAN...
THIS YEAR, MURASAME-SAN WILL BE OUR CLASS PRESIDENT.
Clap Clap Clap

Sigh
I'LL BE GOING ON AHEAD.
OH, SURE.
OH.
KAZAMA...
TWITCH

NEVER MIND ...
SEE YOU LATER.
SURE...

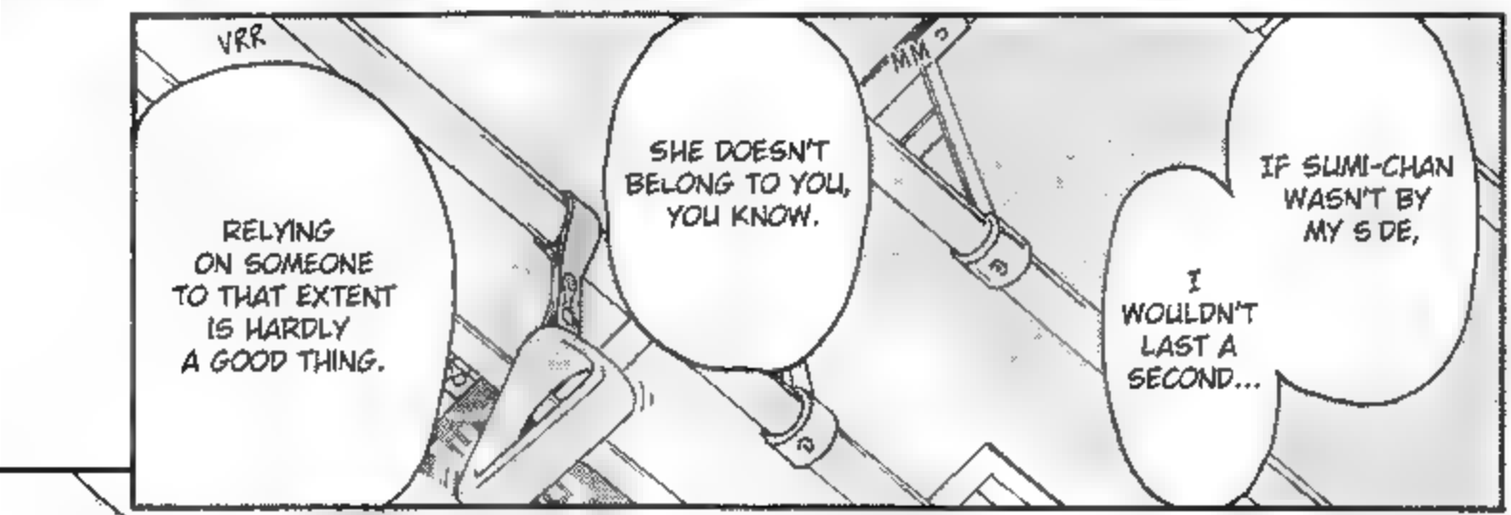
T-TOMOE-CHAN.
DID YOU NEED SOME-THING?
EVER SINCE LAST FALL. .
WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND MURASAME-KUN?
SOMETHING JUST HASN'T SEEMED QUITE RIGHT.
I WON'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH MUCH LONGER.
CLUB!
CLUB!
I REALIZE I'M OVERSTEPPING MY BOUNDS.
BUT TODAY, I HAVE AN EXCUSE
WON'T YOU LET ME REACH OUT TO YOU AS A FRIEND?

THANK YOU...
TOMOE-CHAN.
BUT...
EVERYTHING IS FINE.

NOTHING HAPPENED BETWEEN US.
REALLY.
OH. OKAY.
TAKE CARE OF MY BAG.
MIYAKO ...
YOU'RE TOO NICE FOR YOUR OWN GOOD...
Geez

RRM
RRM
MMM
VRR
MMM
RRM
VRR
PROMO is a bus pass
Flip
Do you have the bus fare?
WHAT KIND OF FRIEND WOULD I BE IF I LEFT YOU ALONE WHEN SOMETHING IS CLEARLY WRONG?
I'M NOT A LITTLE KID.
I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING IS FINE...
RUMBLE
I SEE... YEAH.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS ONE OF SUMI-CHAN'S FRIENDS.
BABUMP
AM I WRONG?
RRM
RRM
A FRIEND ...
MMM
VRR

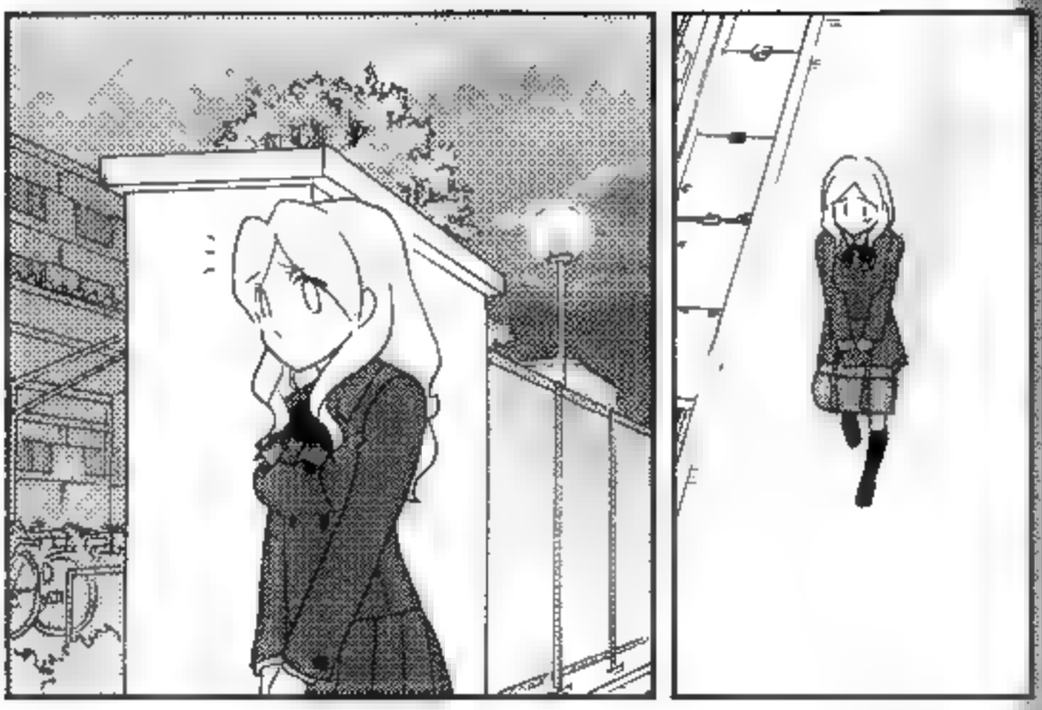
I MEAN ..
This is a bit of a shock.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR SUMI-CHAN, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ENJOY SIMPLE THINGS LIKE THIS.
IT ALWAYS STARTS WITH MURASAME-KUN WHEN IT COMES TO YOU.
I'M SORRY


VRR
MM
SHE DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU, YOU KNOW.
IF SUMI-CHAN WASN'T BY MY SIDE,
I WOULDN'T LAST A SECOND...
RELYING ON SOMEONE TO THAT EXTENT IS HARDLY A GOOD THING.

SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN BY MY SIDE.
SUMI-CHAN IS DIFFERENT!
SUMI-CHAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN WITH ME!
BUT SHE SAID SO!
SHE SAID SHE'D ALWAYS STAY BY MY SIDE.
WHEN I WAS SUFFERING... WHEN I WAS SAD!
YOU BELIEVE EVERY PROMISE THAT COMES OUT OF A HIGH SCHOOLER'S MOUTH?

DOING SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS TO HER...
BUT I WAS ALWAYS...
I DON'T
WANT HER TO HATE ME.
TO BE SEPERATED FROM HER...

SO LEAVE ME ALONE!
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE GOING ON BETWEEN US!
RIGHT NOW, MR.RASAME-KUN ISN'T HERE.



RIGHT NOW YOU'RE SUFFERING.

AND MURASAME-KUN ISN'T HERE.

Kazama!

Sorry. I was in a bit of a bad mood today.

There was just something about that whole entrance ceremony, you know?

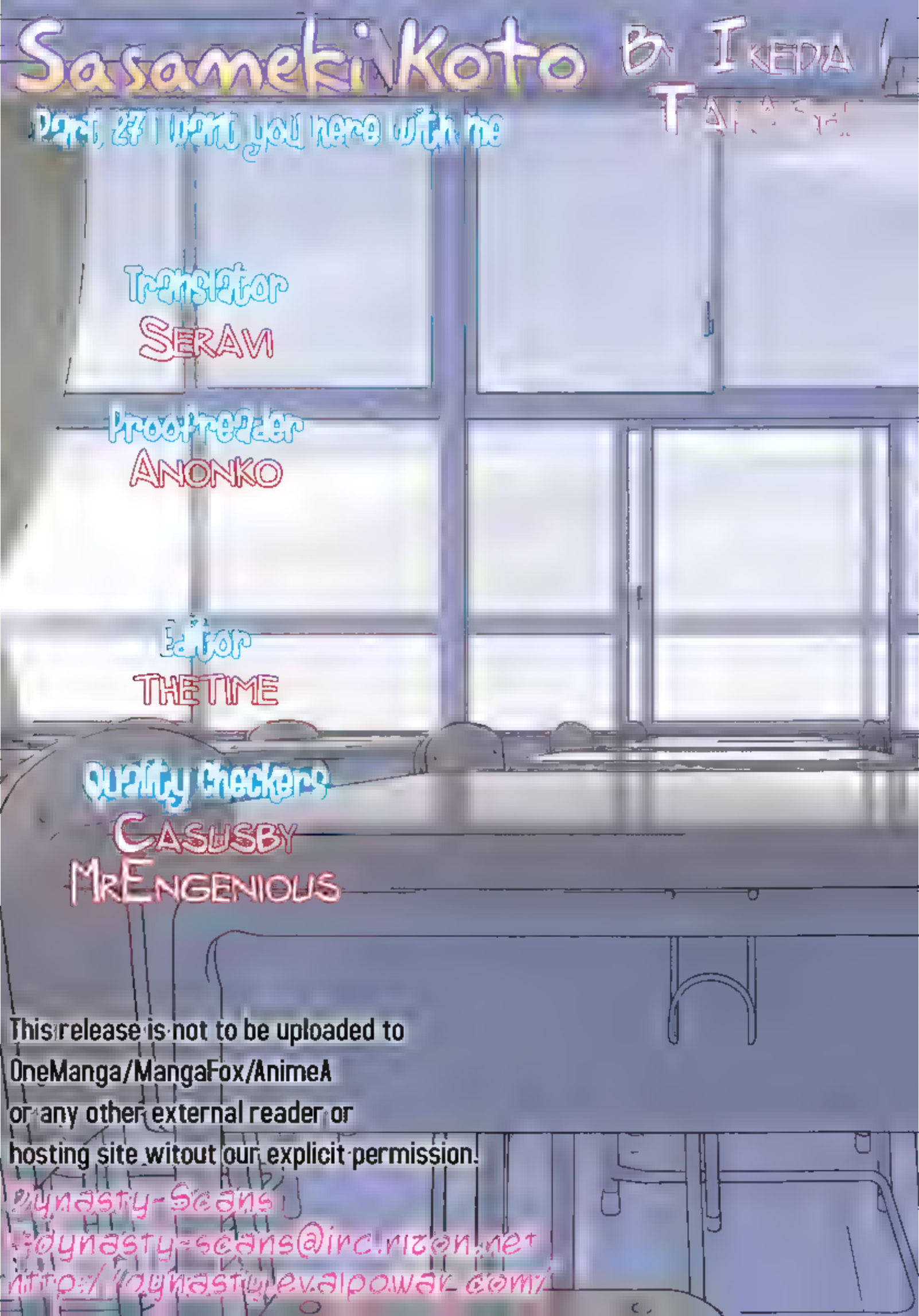
You don't remember? It was in middle school
Huh?
Didn't something like this happen before?
Now that I think about it
Gulp
Yeah It was winter It was snowing
Yet you came running out of the dojo with no shoes on
Oh, that's right
Maybe there was something like that
I ended up skinning the bottoms of my feet really bad I couldn't walk straight for a week
SNICKER
Then I ran into you all of a sudden and had to hit the breaks
Man, that was a real mess
I understand.
Yeah.

I understand why Sumi-chan isn't here right now

SUMI-CHAN
GOOD MORNING
IT'S JUST WELL...
NO
GOOD MORNING MUM?
YOU'RE PRETTY EARLY IS IT YOUR DAY TO OPEN THE LIBRARY?
OH.
I...
SAY, SUMI-CHAN.
GOOD MORNING, SENPAI.

?
AH!
AREN'T YOU MURASAME-SENPAI FROM THE GIRLS' KARATE CLUB?
Good... morning
Jm
THIS IS MATSUBARA KOINO.
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M SEMIMARU MAYU FROM CLASS 1-3.

WE'RE THINKING ABOUT JOINING THE GIRLS' KARATE CLUB.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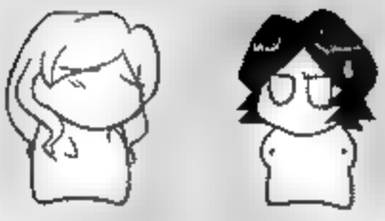
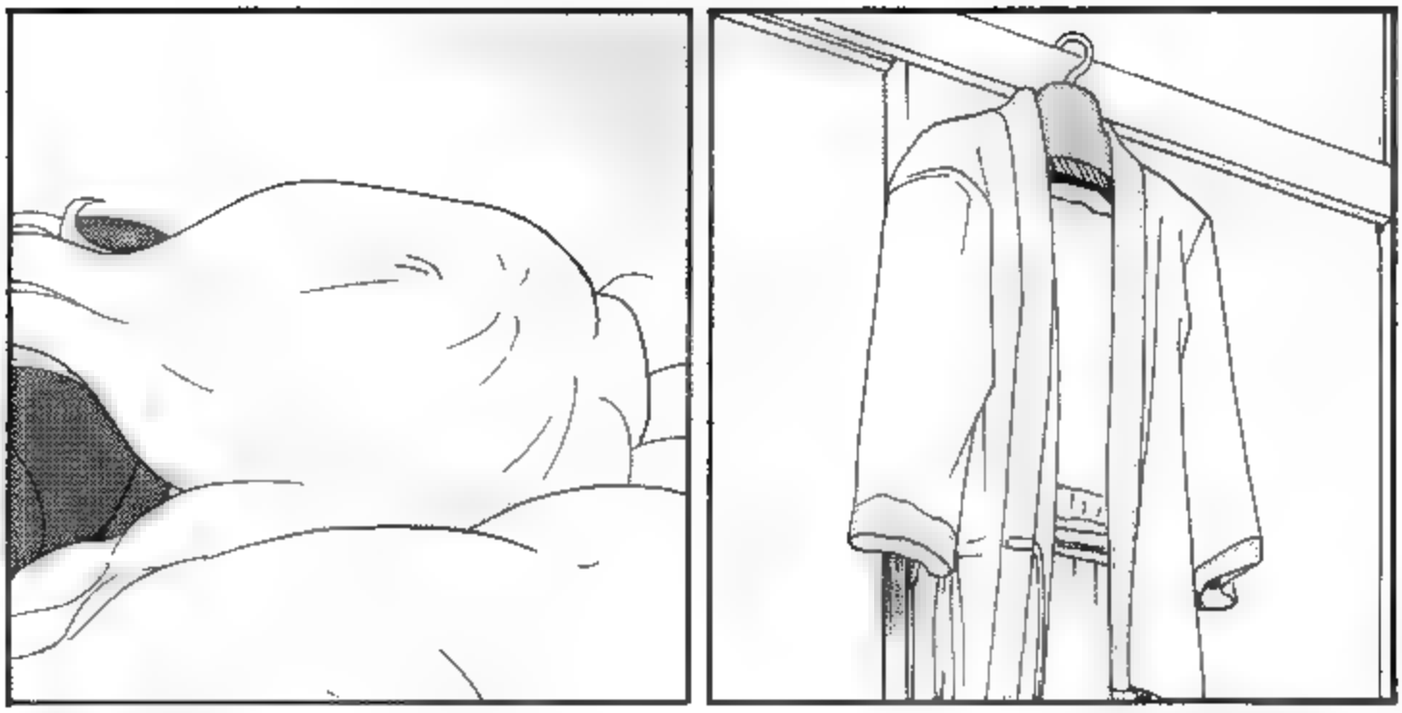


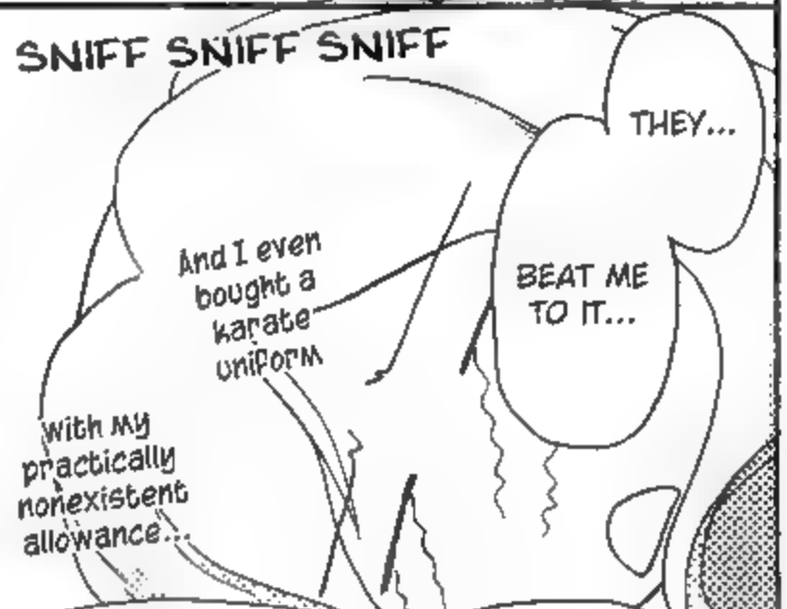
Useless Addition *27

At last we have obtained the illusive six members!
Now we can enter team competitions [redacted] without me!
NEW MEMBERS!
YEEEEE EEEEEE EEEEEE EEES!
Y...
Twinkle
ALL RIGHT
OH MY AMAZING.
It begins here and now!
The legend of the Ume High Girls' Karate Club!
I'M SO SORRY!!
WHAT!? THE VICE-PRESIDENT? AN UPPER CLASSMAN!?
IT EVEN HAS AN ADORABLE FAN.
THE KARATE CLUB SURE IS POPULAR.
Pat Pat

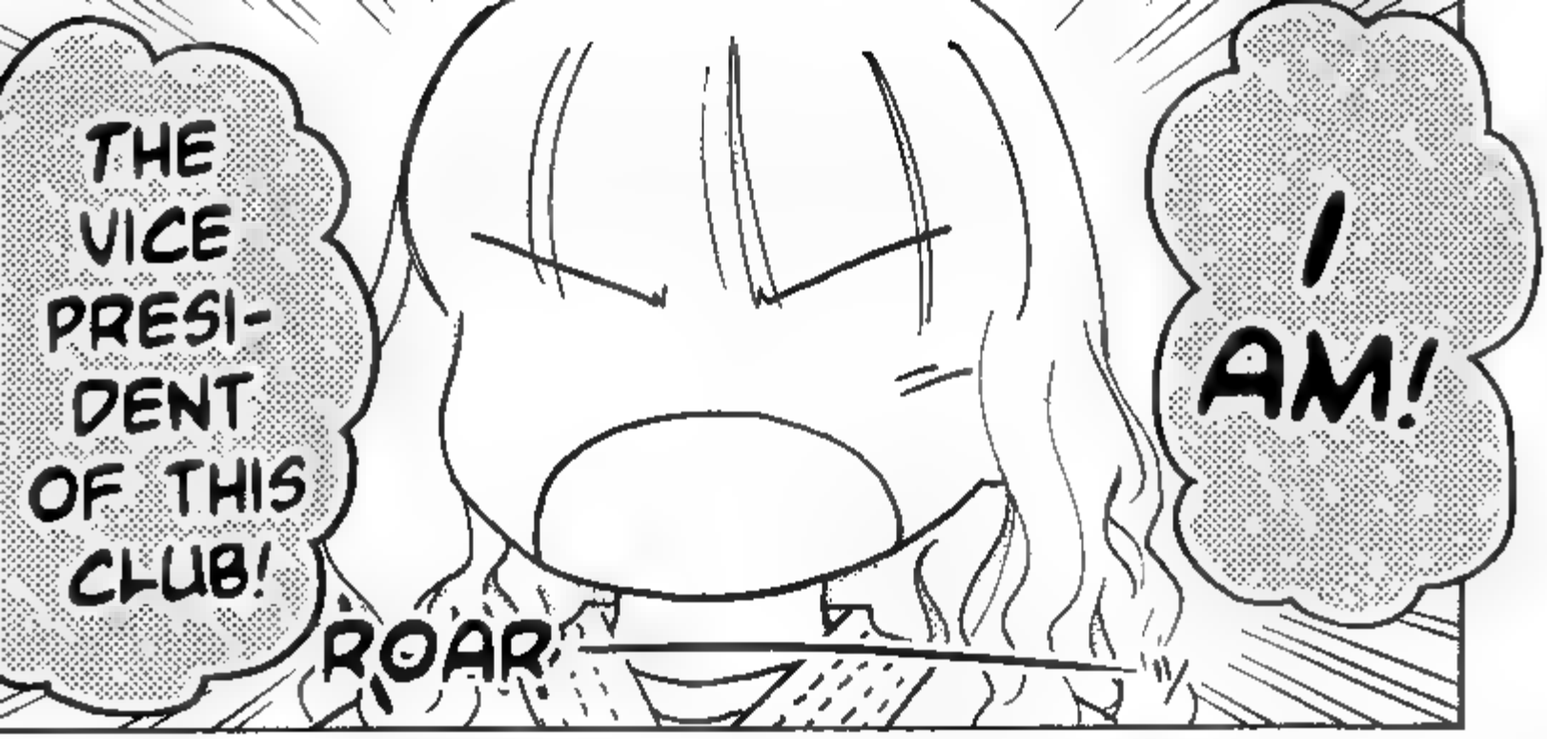


THIS IS HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE

SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF

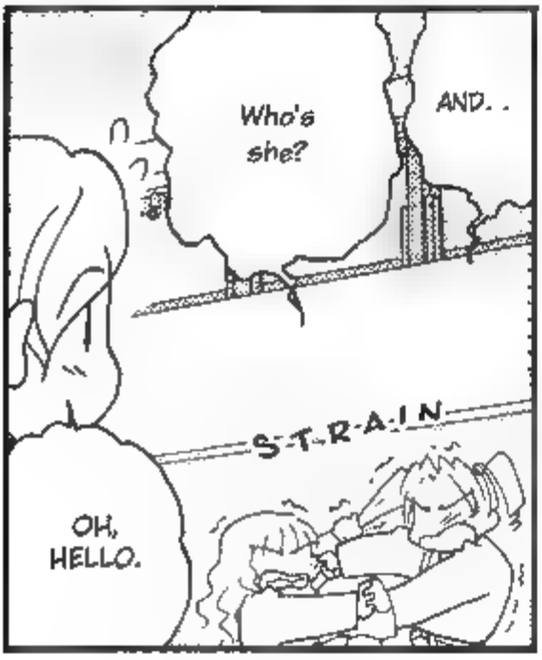


Part 28 smile for me


THE VICE PRESI-DENT OF THIS CLUB!
ROAR
I AM!

I PRACTICED KARATE AT DOUDOUKAN FOR TWO YEARS BEFORE STUDYING THE NORTH POLE STYLE FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS.
I'M SEMIMARU MAYU, A FIRST-YEAR IN CLASS 3.

Right now you have all the worth of a pile of amphibian turds!
Well met, new members! I am glad you have come!
Told her to say this
Hey, watch it.
She's tiny


Who's she?
AND. .
S-T-R-A-I-N
OH, HELLO.

THWACK

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT'D MOTIVATE YOU TO GO OUTTA YOUR WAY TO SWITCH DOJOS.
SO YOU AND OUR ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE CLUB PRESIDENT ARE FELLOW PUPILS?

I'M MATSUBARA KOINO, ANOTHER FIRST-YEAR FROM CLASS 3.
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO KARATE EXPERIENCE, BUT I'LL TRY MY BEST.
OH?
MY, MY, MY.
A BEGINNER, ARE YOU?
BETTER BRACE YOURSELF. WE RUN A REAL TIGHT SHIP.
FOR STARTERS, UNDERCLASSMEN HAVE TO BE TOTALLY OBEDIENT TO UPPERCLASSMEN! IF ONE OF YOUR ELDERS CLAIMS WHITE IS BLACK...
THWACK ——
What the hell d'you think you're doing-?
No bullying!

...This has been happening a lot lately.
But things felt a little weird between us yesterday.
Didn't seem like it was anything terribly important.
YOU CAN GO ON AHEAD.
See ya later
SORRY, I FORGOT SOMETHING.
I wonder...
What Kazama was trying to tell me.
The reason why.
And I know...
Things still seem kinda awkward though...
I thought we'd succeeded in making up.

UM, WELL, SINCE IT'S OUR FIRST DAY,
LET'S TRY DOING SOME LIGHT JOGGING AND MAYBE A BIT OF CALISTHENICS...
EH?
OH, YEAH.
Sumikai
Is it not time to start morning practice?
zoning out
Come, let us whip ourselves into shape for the tournament!
YEEEEAAAAHHH
Our five-man battle squad is now complete.

Sigh -

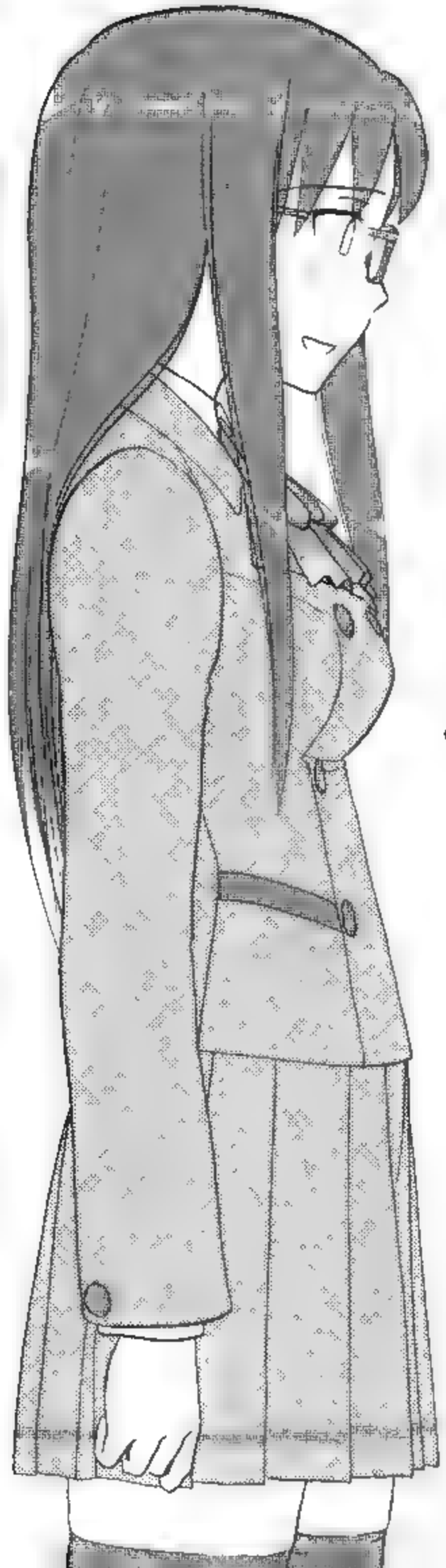
GO UMEGAE HIGH!
Yeah!

YOU'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS?
YEP, EVER SINCE KINDERGARTEN.
RIGHT, MAYU-CHAN?
WE'VE PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS.
BUT SHE STILL GETS AWFULLY LONELY WHEN SHE'S LEFT ON HER OWN.
WHEN SHE WENT TO ONE OF HER DOJO'S TRAINING CAMPS, SHE ENDED UP GIVING ME A CALL 'CAUSE SHE COULDN'T STAND NOT SEEING ME FOR AN ENTIRE DAY.
Although using the phone was forbidden.
HEY!
AND THAT'S HOW SHE IS.
I see...
DON'T TALK WHILE WE'RE RUNNING, KOI.
HM? WHEN WE WERE DECIDING WHICH HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS TO ENTER, YOU COMPLAINED, INTERFERED AND WOULDN'T LET ME GO OFF AND JOIN ANY OF THEM.
ANYWAY, WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BRING UP STUFF THAT HAPPENED BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?!
LOOK, THAT WAS MY VERY FIRST TRAINING CAMP!
YOU...!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TALK WHILE WE'RE RUNNING!
IT'S OKAY, I GIVE YOU PERMISSION.

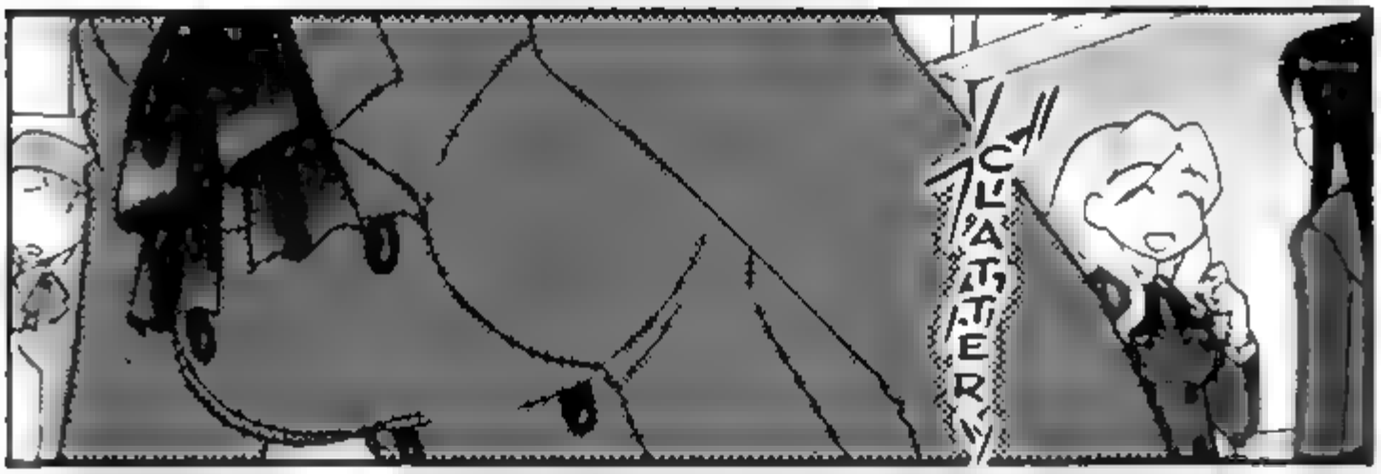
HOW ABOUT GIVING THEM A QUICK WARNING, PRESIDENT ?
I'M SORRY.
IT DOES SEEM LIKE YOU FIRST-YEARS HAVE BEEN TALKING A BIT TOO MUCH.
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE YOU KEEP HITTING!?
NO UNNECESSARY CHATTING!
THWACK
sway
WHOA!
swaying
MAN, THEY'RE ALL USELESS...

NOW YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH MEMBERS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS AN OFFICIAL CLUB.
OH, HOW WOOOON-DERFUL FOR YOU.
2-1
MUST
Went back home then returned to arrive at school normally
It's RADIANT!
G morning
Yes!
So you understand this supreme joy of mine!
YOUR HARD WORK SURE PAID OFF, LOTTE-CHAN.
It's all right.
SEE, THIS MORNING...
Got it.
Just pretend nothing ever happened yesterday.
AH, W- WAIT A SEC, OKAY?
HEY, KAZAMA. .
G'MORNING, TOMOE-CHAN!

It'll be okay.
I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT
I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY.
It'll be okay.
...No.
I care so much about Sumi-chan. I'll do anything just to stay by her side.
I PUT MY FOOT DOWN FOR NO REASON AND DROVE YOU INTO A TIGHT SPOT.
OH, UH, RIGHT.
No...
EXCEPT... I THINK IT WAS MY FAULT FOR BEING STUBBORN...
It doesn't matter how many lies I need to tell.
You're wrong, Kazama...



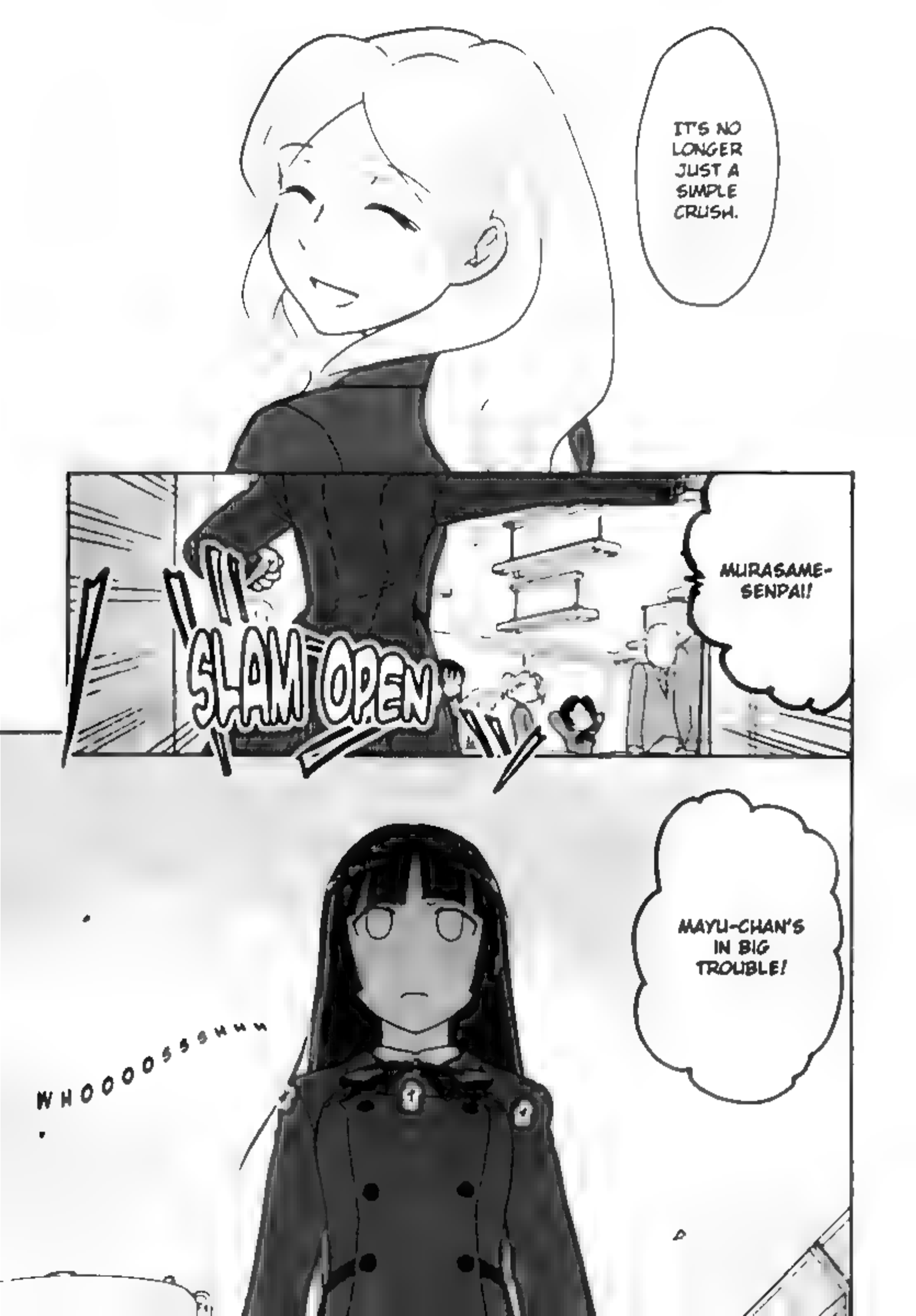
This smile of yours is all wrong—


CLATTER

I MEAN, I UNDERSTAND YOUR DESIRE TO HAVE THINGS CULMINATE IN A DRAMATIC CONFESSION, BUT...
ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS TELL THAT FOUR-EYED FOOL, "MISS BIG TITTIES HAS A CRUSH ON YOU, TOO."
...NO.
NEW PRODUCT

...IF IT BOTHERS YOU THAT MUCH,
WHY NOT HELP THEM GET TOGETHER?
SIT

AT THE MOMENT, THERE ISN'T A SINGLE THING
I CAN DO FOR THE TWO OF THEM.


IT'S NO LONGER JUST A SIMPLE CRUSH.
SLAM OPEN
MURASAME-SENPAI!
MAYU-CHAN'S IN BIG TROUBLE!
WHOOOOSSSHHH

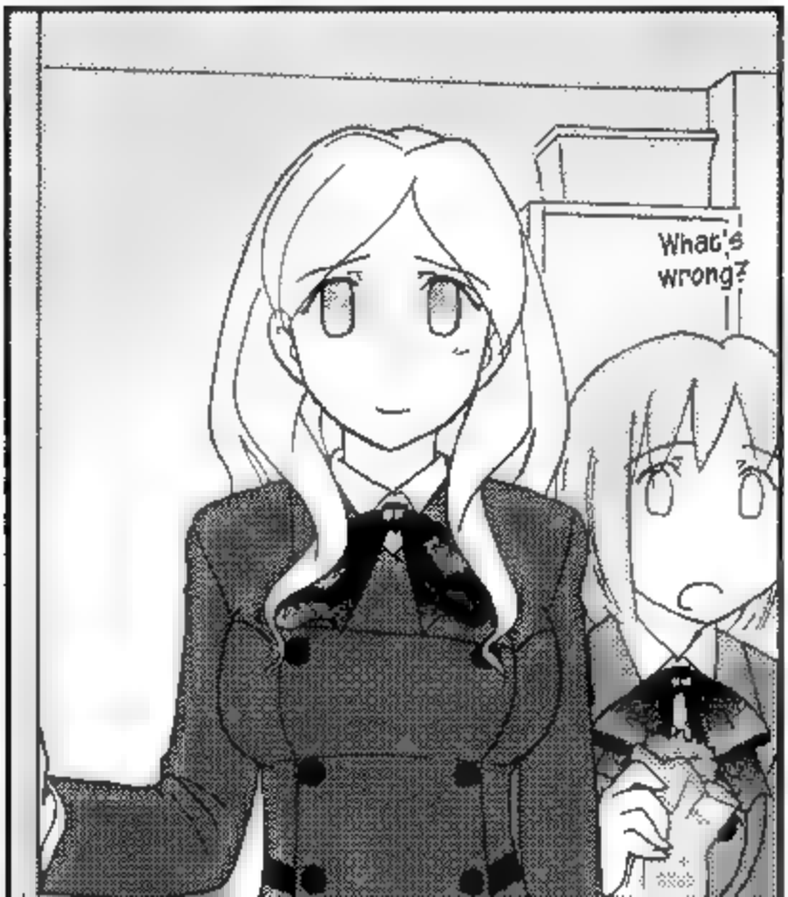
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
GRRR
HEY! HEY! HEY, LADY
YA SURE YOU DON'T WANNA START SOMETHING?
LOOK DOWN ON US AND YER LIFE IS FORFEIT, MAMMA!?
WELL? WHATCHA GOT TA SAY FOR YERSELF, EH?
HEY!!
AIN'T NUTHIN' WRONG WITH LIKING CANNED RED BEAN SOUP, DUMBASS!

D- DON'T BE GETTIN' IN OUR WAY!
YOU'RE SAFE NOW, MAYU-CHAN!
IT'S THEM!
WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU TWO BUDDIES OR SOMETHING?
SORRY IF SHE GAVE YOU ANY TROUBLE.
AH.
I CAN TAKE CARE OF THESE HOOLIGANS ON MY OWN.
NOW, NOW.
SHE'S MURASAME SUMIKA, A SECOND-YEAR.
THAT ONE'S TROUBLE.
HISS
Yeah?
WHAT'S YER PROBLEM?
HEY, UH,
HOLD UP.
YER LITTLE PAL OVER HERE MESSED WITH OUR..
W- W- WHAT SHOULD WE DO, HUH?
THERE'S NO MISTAKE. I REMEMBER SEEIN' HER AT LAST YEAR'S FIELD DAY.
THE ONE RUMORED TO HAVE INSTANTLY DEFEATED EIGHT YAKUZA MEMBERS BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
WHAT?? THE NOTORIOUS "VIOLENT MURASAME"?
6

NEXT TIME WE MEET, WE'LL DO YA IN FOR SURE.
KILL
Y- YOU GOT AWAY EASY THIS TIME, LITTLE LADY.
ding dong
ding dong
ding dong
ding dong
WH- WHOOPS, THERE'S THE BELL. TIME FOR CLASS.

WHAT'S GOING ON?
glomp
I'M SO SO SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY.

MAYU-CHAN!


What's wrong?

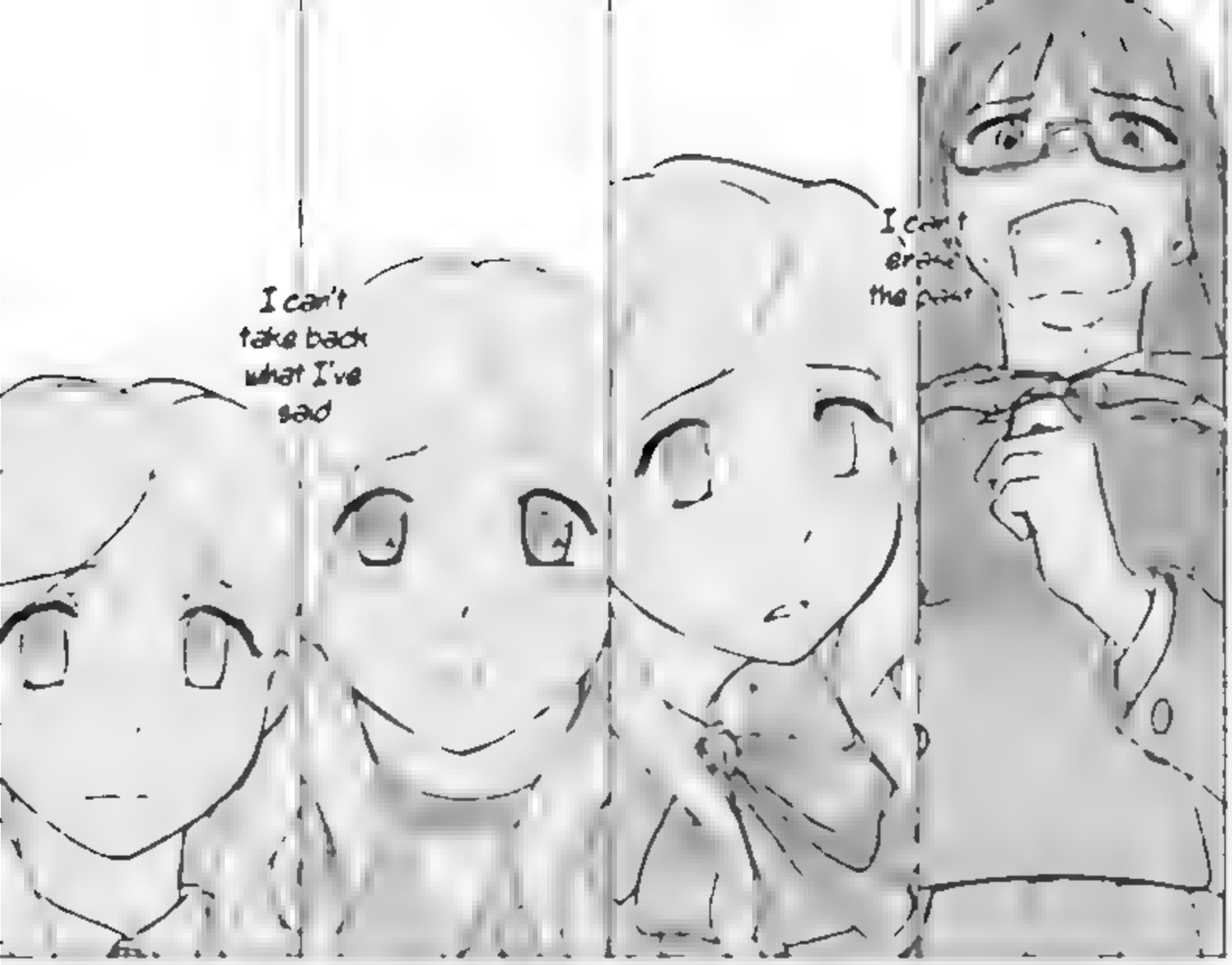
Explaining the particulars.

Go, go, Umegae High!
Go, go, Umegae High!
Go, go, Umegae High!

huh...

...Violent Murasame,

I only had to deal with three high-schoolers, but I guess that established my reputation...
It happened when Kazama and I went to an amusement park.


I can't take back what I've said
I can't erase the past

What on earth
am I supposed to do now?

SU
MI
KA!
MU
RA
SA
ME
Geez! You have not been listening to a single word!
EH?
S- SORRY, WHAT'D YOU SAY?

I FEEL KINDA BAD FOR YOU, MAYU-CHAN.
THAT CUTE LITTLE UPPER-CLASSMEN LED THE WHOLE PRACTICE.
THE CLUB PRESIDENT SEEMED A LITTLE OFF-KILTER TODAY.
KOI...
YOU JOINED THE CLUB THINKING YOU'D BE ABLE TO DO KARATE WITH THE PERSON YOU'VE ALWAYS LOOKED UP TO...
I MIGHT QUIT YOUR CLUB.

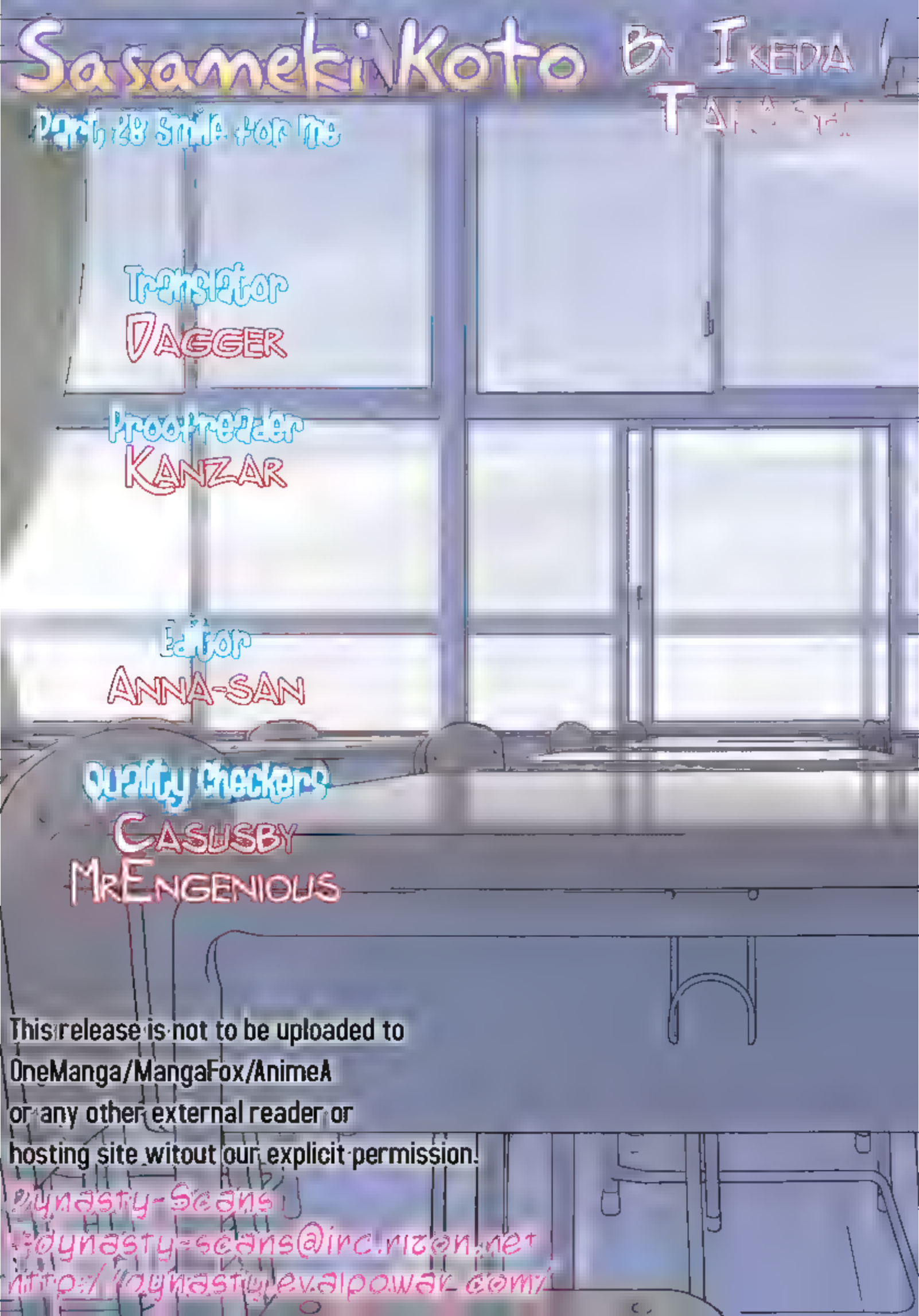
What?
Dunno

FORGET IT!

IT- IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, LOTTE.
OH.
WELLING UP...

Why... why are you unhappy, Sumika?
S- SORRY.
We worked so hard to gather enough members.
I am no good, but I thought I would be able to compete as part of a team.
I'M SORRY, LOTTE. I'M SORRY...
SOB
SOB
SOB
SNIFFLE
...But, Sumika...
I - I GOT IT
NO HOT SHOWERS AFTER 7 PM.
HUH?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE PRETTY HIGHLY RANKED, AREN'T YOU?
WOULD YOU MIND SPARRING WITH ME TOMORROW?
PRESI-DENT.
HONK

NO.
I'D LIKE A REAL MATCH.
YEAH, IT'LL SERVE AS A USEFUL EXAMPLE FOR EVERYONE ELSE.
LET'S RUN THROUGH A FEW OF THE STANDARD EXERCISES...
...I'LL SHOW YOU FOR WHAT YOU REALLY ARE.
A FAKE MURASAME SUMIKA!
...HUH?
blow



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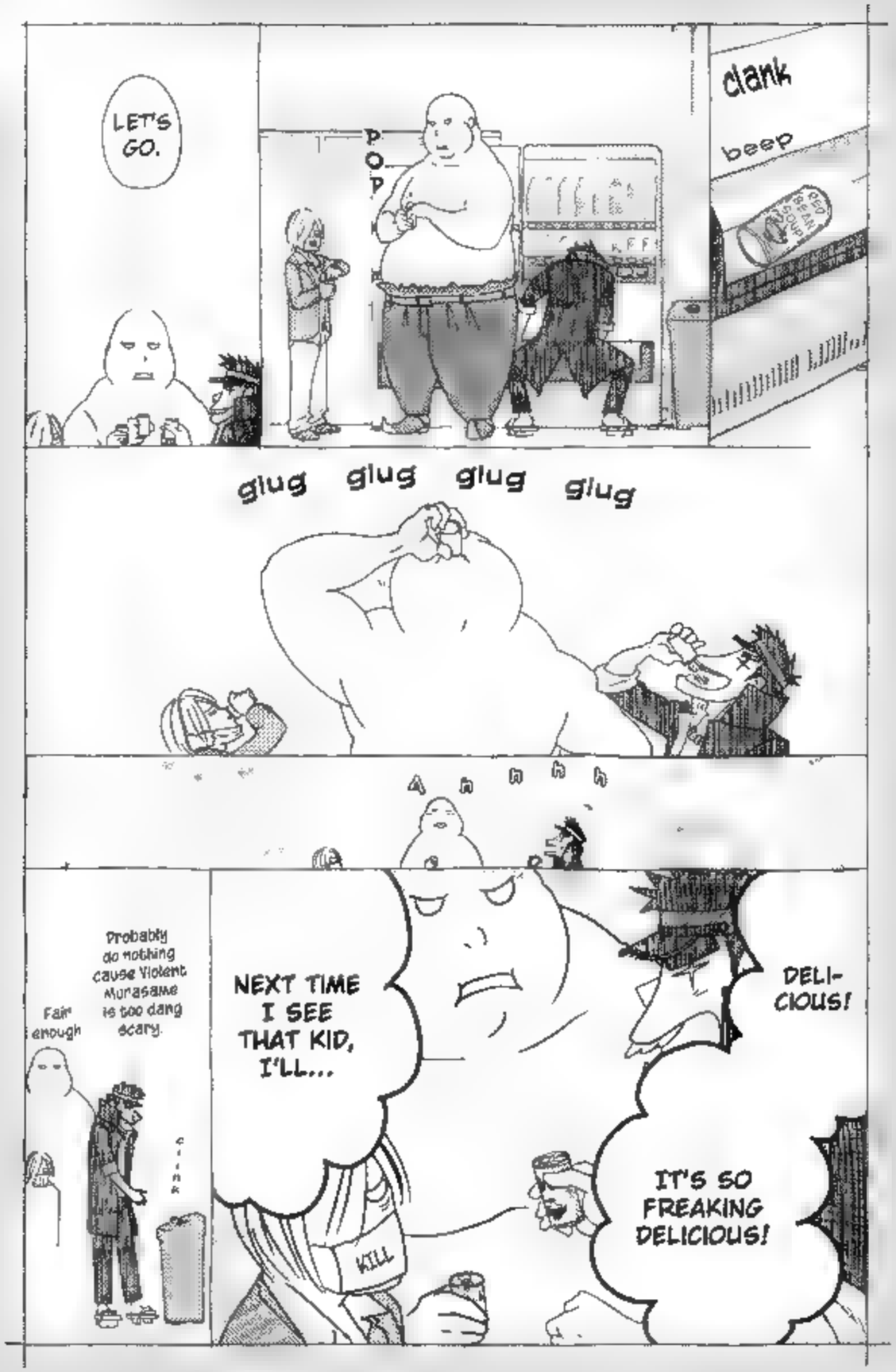
Sasameki Koto 5

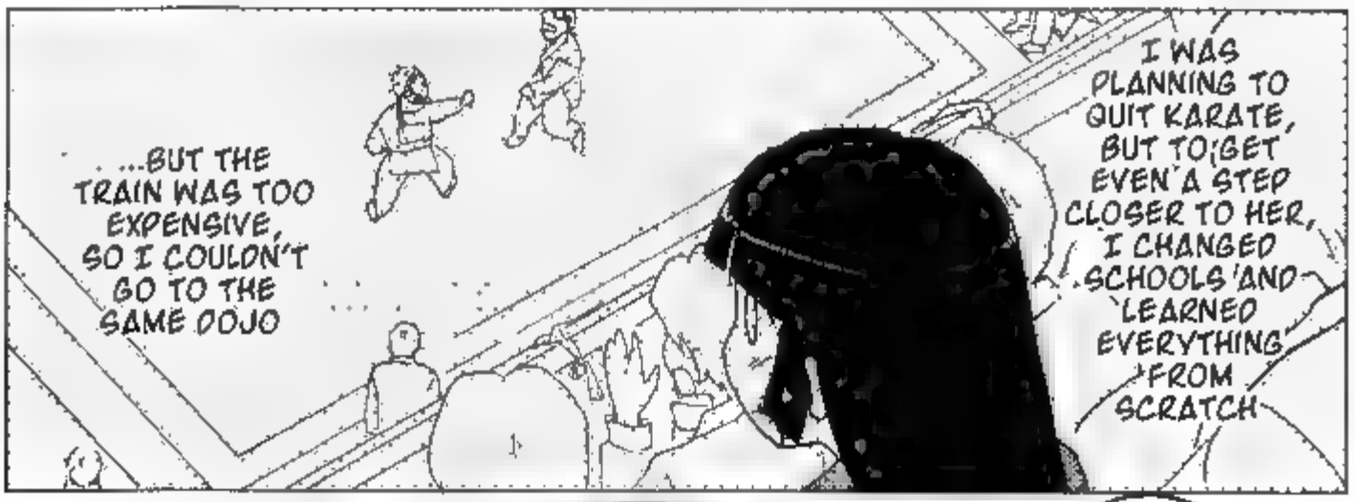
Useless Addition #28



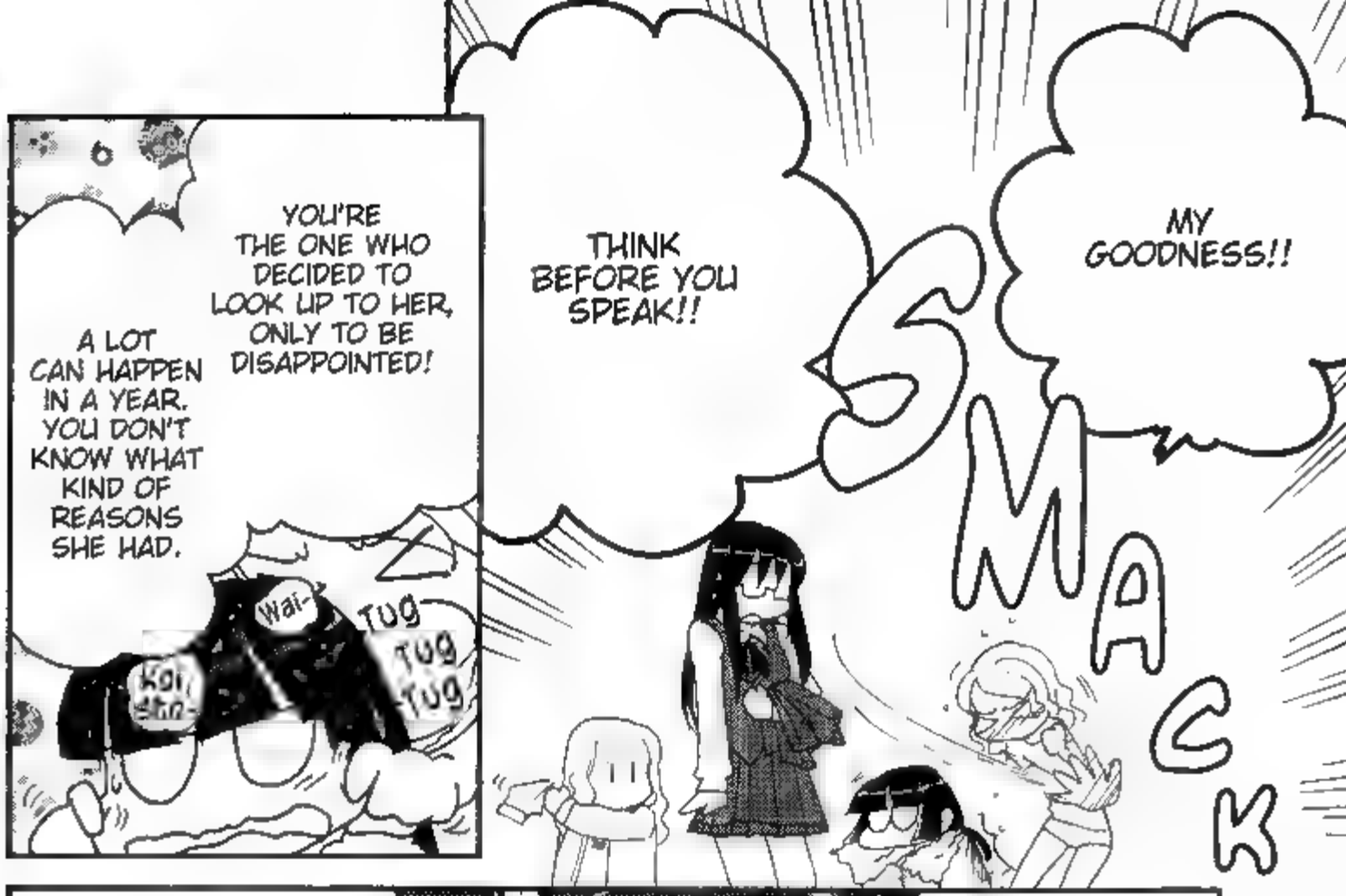
part 23 An Eternity to that Corner

WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
SMACK
YOU'RE SUCH A KIDDER, MAYU-CHAN!
YOU...
WHO DRINKS CANNED RED BEAN SOUP
DRESSED LIKE THAT ANYWAY?
HONESTLY, SHE JUST CAUSED THAT BIG MESS THIS MORNING, BUT SHE NEVER LEARNS.
I DON'T REGRET WHAT I SAID.
Tug Tug
SHE ALWAYS JUST GOES OFF AND SAYS WHATEVER SHE WANTS WITHOUT THINKING.
I'M SORRY, SENPAI. SHE'S JUST LIKE THAT.
...THE "MURASAME SUMIKA" THAT I LOOKED UP TO
WAS A MUCH COOLER PERSON!

WITH OVERWHELMING STRENGTH YOU CLAIMED YOUR TITLE ONCE AGAIN. NORTH-POLE KARATE'S MURASAME SUMIKA WAS MY HERO
TWO YEARS AGO, AT THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT,
YOU FACED SOMEONE FROM MY DOJO WHO HAD PICKED ON ME CONSTANTLY.


...BUT THE TRAIN WAS TOO EXPENSIVE, SO I COULDN'T GO TO THE SAME DOJO
I WAS PLANNING TO QUIT KARATE, BUT TO GET EVEN A STEP CLOSER TO HER, I CHANGED SCHOOLS AND LEARNED EVERYTHING FROM SCRATCH

BUT I DIDN'T COME HERE TO GOOF AROUND LIKE THIS.
I THOUGHT I COULD FINALLY MEET YOU.
BUT EVEN SO, I THOUGHT I COULD MAKE IT TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL... I STUDIED LIKE CRAZY.


MY GOODNESS!!
THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK!!
SMACK
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO LOOK UP TO HER, ONLY TO BE DISAPPOINTED!
A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN A YEAR. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF REASONS SHE HAD.
Wai-
Tug Tug Tug

GOODNESS. THIS IS THE KIND OF THING THAT GOT YOU BULLIED AT YOUR LAST DOJO.
WE'RE AT SCHOOL NOW. YOU CAN'T JUST QUIT BECAUSE THINGS AREN'T GOING WELL. THINK ABOUT IT...

THAT'S IT! NOW YOU'RE REALLY GONNA GET IT!!
R-RELAX.
I'M NOT GOING TO TEASE ANYONE.
Tug Tug Tug

...MAYU-CHAN?
DON'T TELL ME YOU REALLY WEREN'T THINKING...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

SO YOU LOOKED UP TO ME...

pat

HUH? BUT ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU JUST SAID?

I NEVER LOOKED UP TO YOU OR ANYTHING ...

NOPE.

YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.

I REALLY MIGHT BE A FAKE.

no

Tug Tug Tug Tug

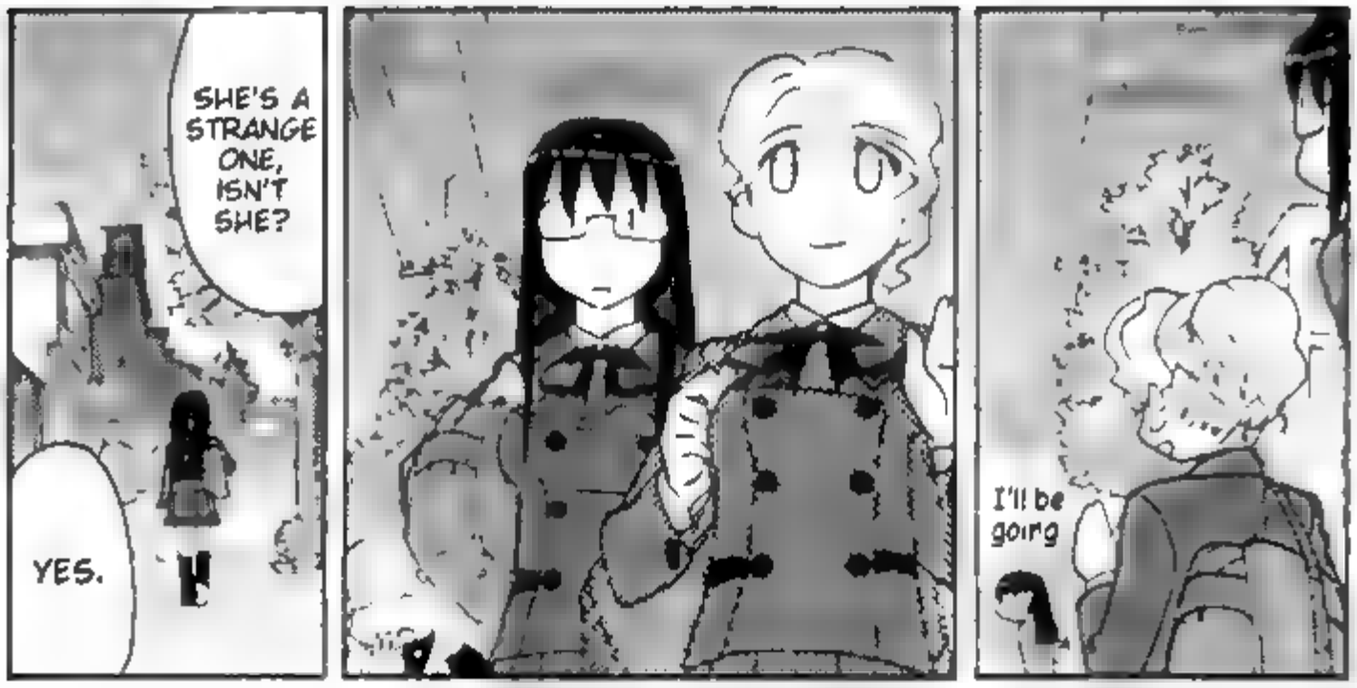
NO, I RIDE THE TRAIN.
HM? YOU DON'T RIDE THE BUS, SEMIMARU-SAN?

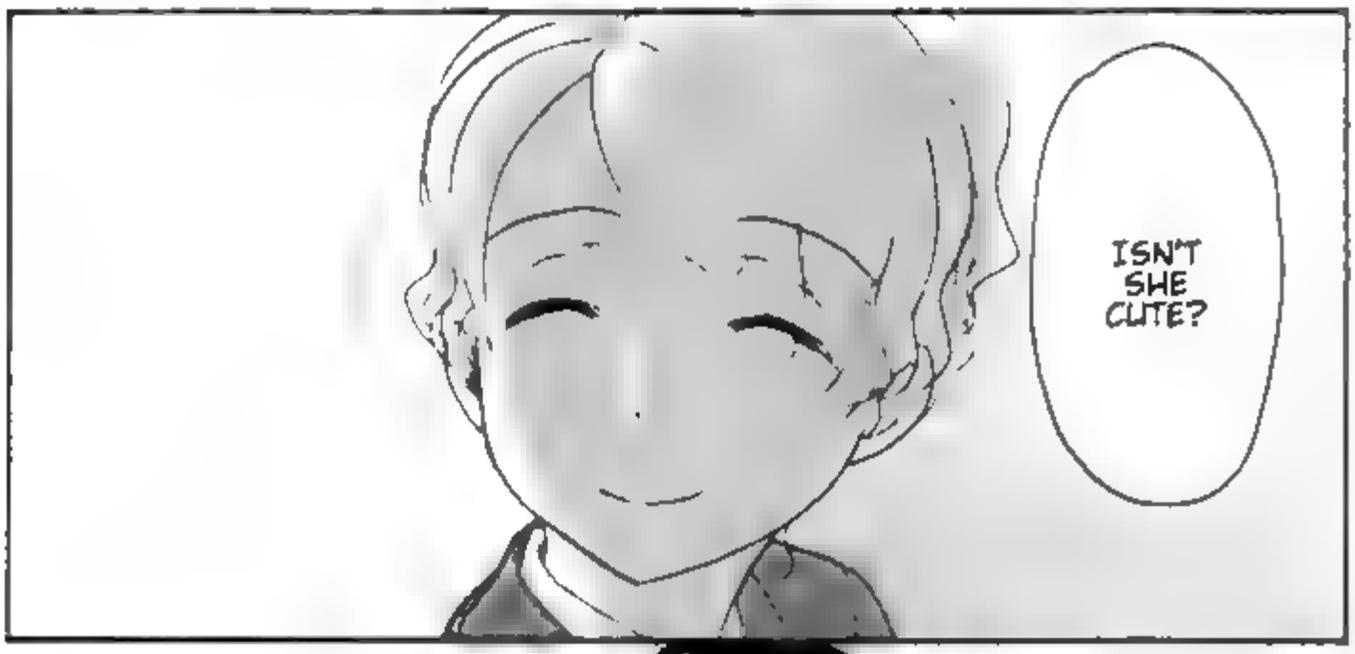
I'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER.

IT'S ONLY 10 MINUTES OUT OF THE WAY.
B- BUT AREN'T THOSE APARTMENTS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF THE SCHOOL?
W- WHY BOTHER? COULDN'T YOU JUST MEET UP AT THE STATION...

IT'S BECAUSE KOI MOVED.
? BUT THIS MORNING ...
I GO TO PICK HER UP EVERY MORNING.

IS THERE SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT?
WE'VE ALWAYS WALKED TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.


SHE'S A STRANGE ONE, ISN'T SHE?
YES.
I'll be goirg


ISN'T SHE CUTE?

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT.
WELL...

has the gentle-looking Matsubara-san who thinks she's cute.

Even the reliable-looking airhead Semimaru-san

*See Volume 1

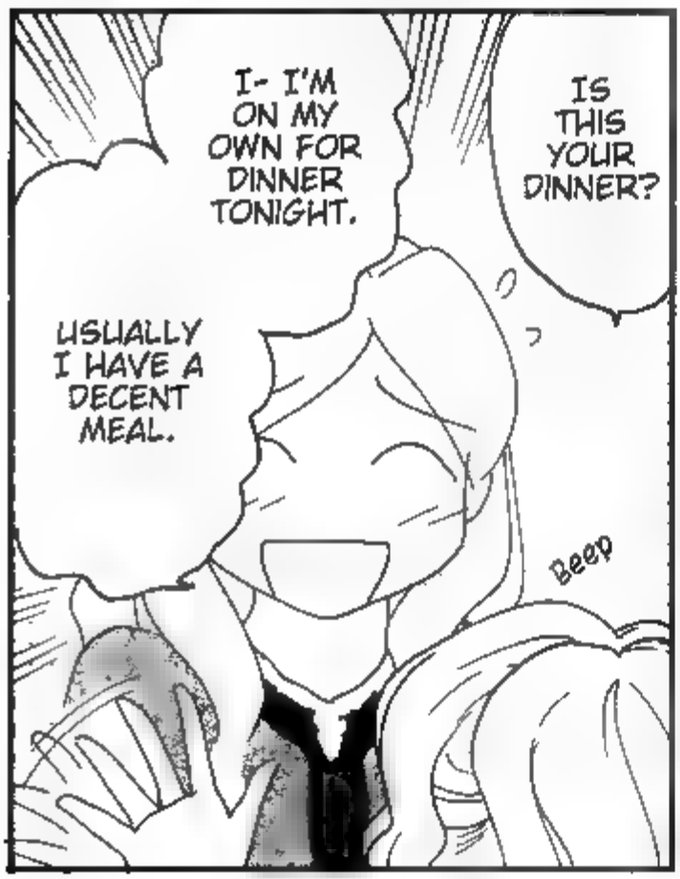
Perhaps...
...I've been
wrong about
this all wrong.

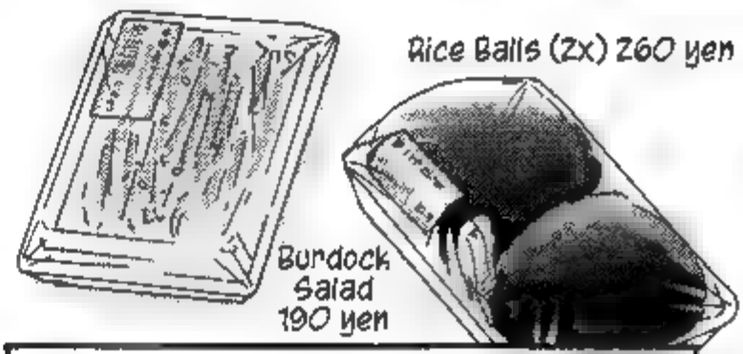
OH...
I SEE HE'S GOING TO BE HOME LATE TODAY.
HUH!?
WHAT TIME IS IT!? I HAVE TO MAKE DINNER!!
OH I MUST'VE DOZED OFF
I...
DON'T FEEL LIKE MAKING DINNER...

Rumble

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN...
I'M SO SORRY THAT I'M LATE.

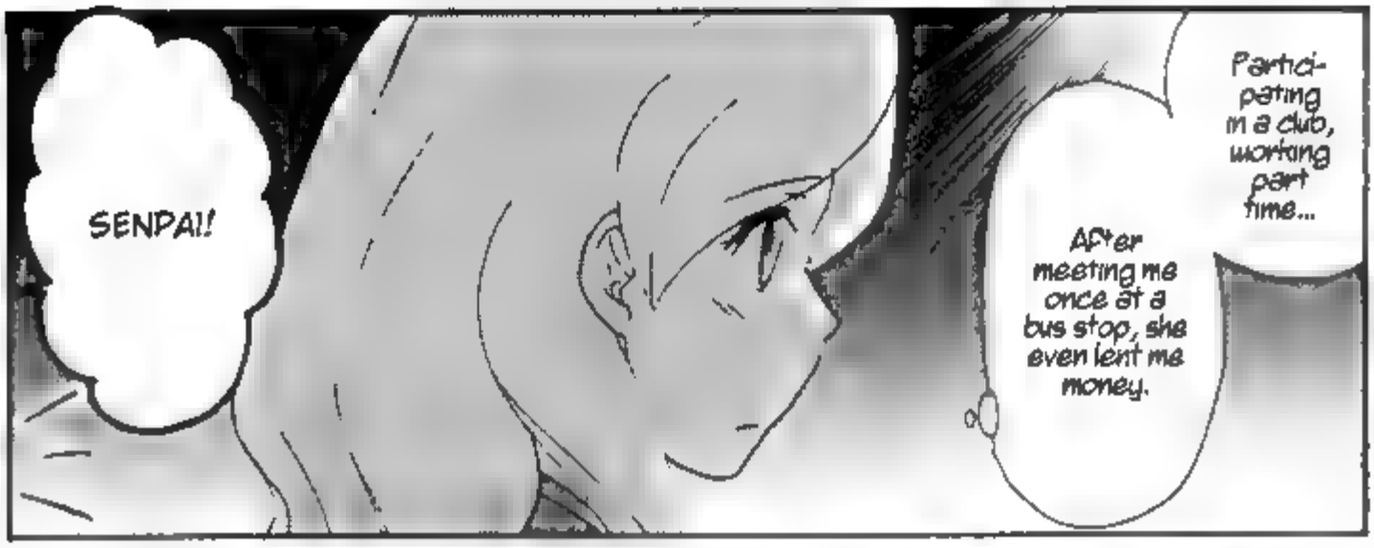
Next customer please!


I- I'M ON MY OWN FOR DINNER TONIGHT.
IS THIS YOUR DINNER?
USUALLY I HAVE A DECENT MEAL.
Beep


Rice Balls (2x) 260 yen
Burdock Salad 190 yen

Beep

Shoot! I forgot my money!
SENPAI?
100 10 1
One of each
I should've just made something at home.
...This is so embarrassing.
That will be 450 yen.
Oh, I don't need chopsticks.
I CAN COVER IT FOR YOU.
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
S- SORRY.
I NEED TO RUN TO THE ATM...
SHE...
Please come again.
MUST BE PRETTY BUSY.
THOSE CAN GET PRETTY EXPEN-SIVE.
What kind of machine gets an evening bonus anyway?
Ding
AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT THE ATM FEES ARE HIGHER.
NOT AT ALL.
...YOU'RE REALLY ON TOP OF THINGS.


SENPAI!
Partici-pating in a club, working part time...
After meeting me once at a bus stop, she even lent me money.

I MADE THESE TEA-CAKES. THEY'RE ONLY CANDIED SWEET POTATOES, BUT PLEASE TAKE THEM!
HERE.

ANYTIME IS FINE.
HUH!?
OH, I-I FULLY INTEND TO PAY YOU BACK!

IF YOU'RE EATING BY YOURSELF, I INSIST! HAVING SOMETHING HOMEMADE WILL MAKE IT LESS LONELY!
PLEASE.
NO...
I- I WOULD FEEL BAD.

Sweet potatoes...

SEE YOU LATER!
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT WASHING THE CONTAINER.
MATSUBARA
...I SEE.
MATSU-BARA... I BELIEVE IT WAS KOINO-CHAN.
THE GIRL SHE WAS WITH WAS MAYU-CHAN, I THINK.
OF THE TWO, SHE LOOKED LIKE THE MORE RELIABLE ONE.

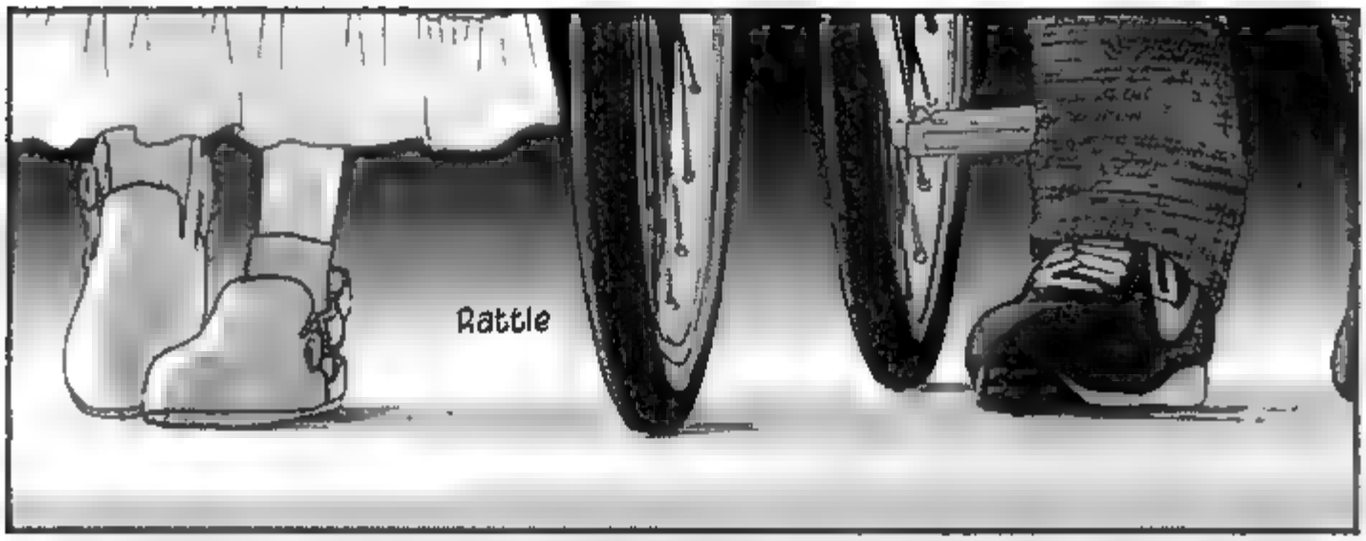
She's quite reliable and thou
Amazing
:
:
Guess I do more at the shows
And I thought I was doing as much as I could
So maybe I was nothing special at all

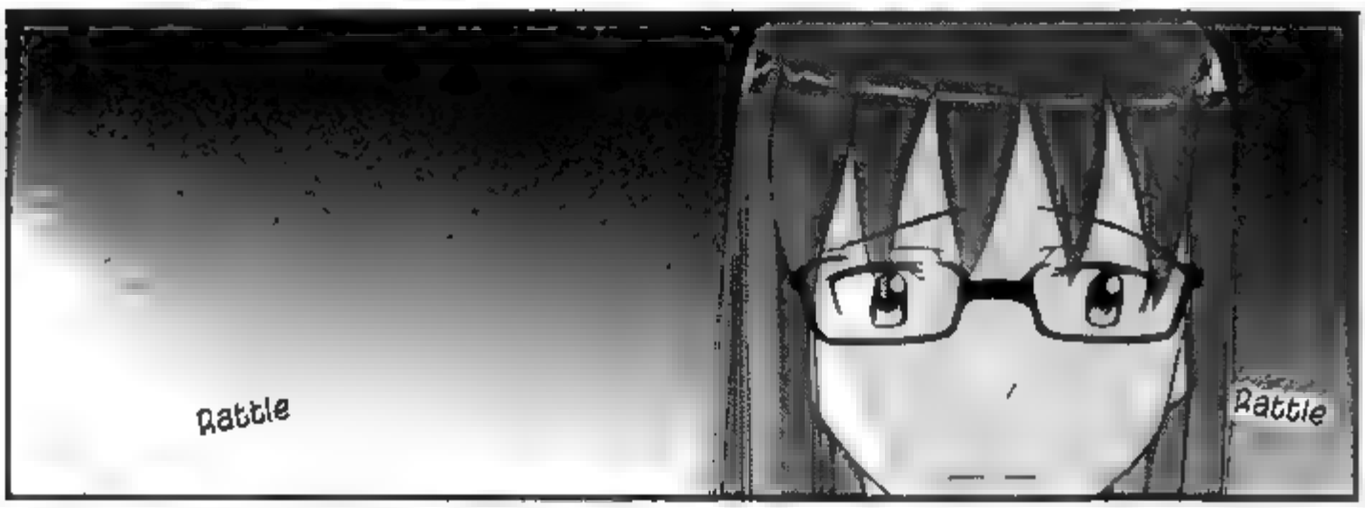
His mother and his wife don't get along well.
He gets home late because he goes to two cram schools.
This woman
Could be studying hard to prepare to work abroad.
This man...
Could be caring for his sick wife while trying to balance it with work...
Yet everyone looks as if they're just going about their business.
Even though they're working hard every single day...

So what about me?

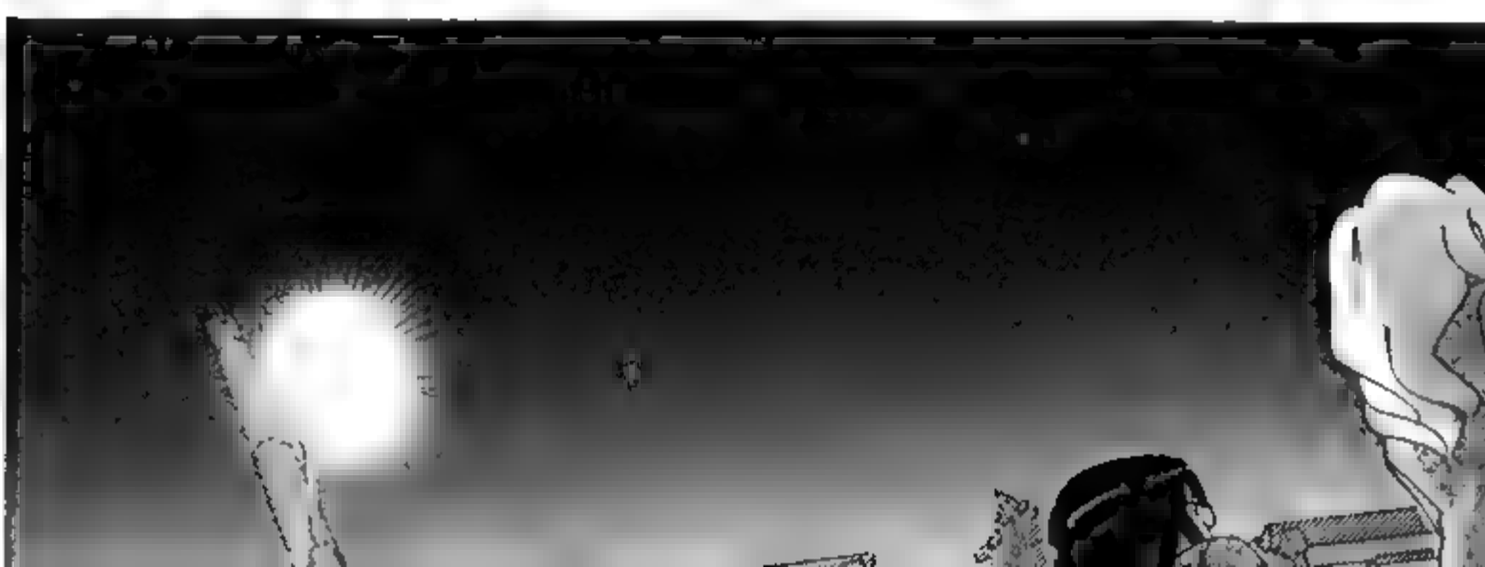
...What about me?

...OUT SHOP-PING?
YEAH...
YOU TOO, KAZAMA?
Screech
Blink
...YES.


Rattle


Rattle
Rattle

Rattle



I wonder
how I look to
my beloved
Shu-chan
Lovers of
Eros is in
to study
her side...

Sasameki Koto

By Ikeda Tai

Part 20 An Eternity to that Corner

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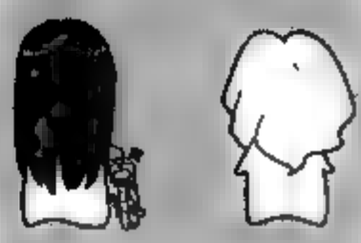
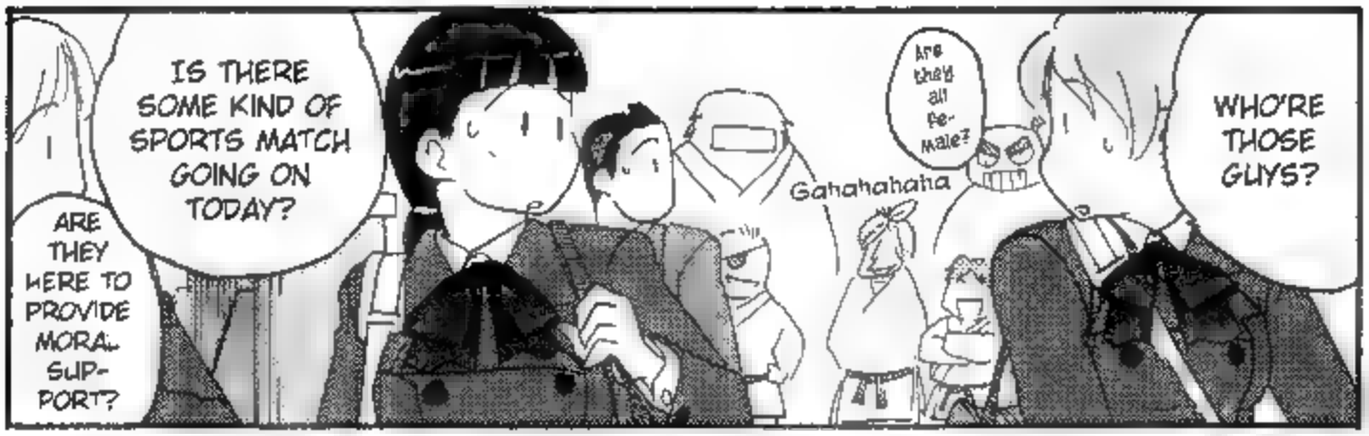
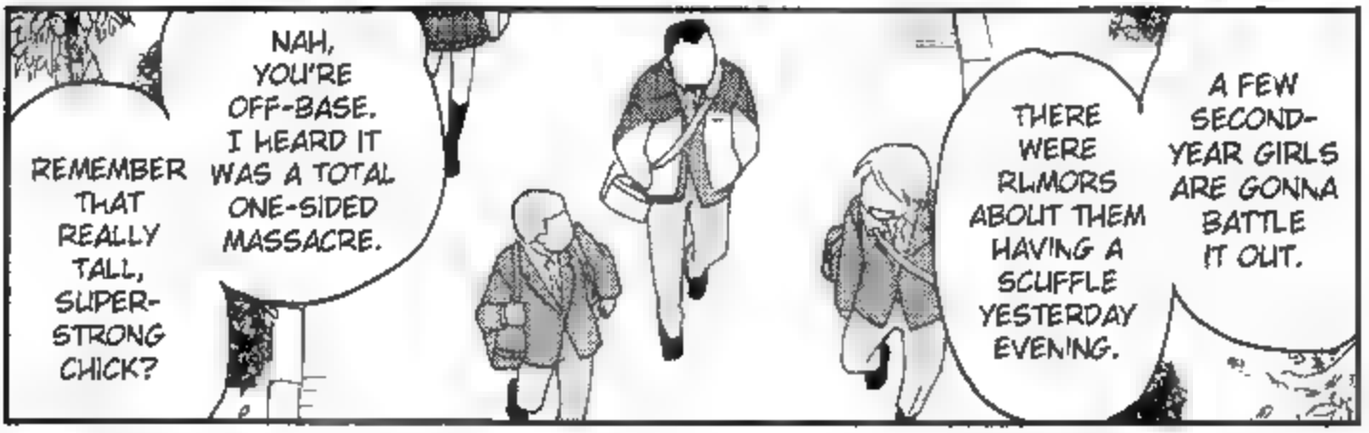


Useless Addition #29

I WAS
THE
FIRST
ONE OF
US TO
TELL
A LIE.

Part 30 Lies and Punishment
Mutter
Mutter
Good Morning!

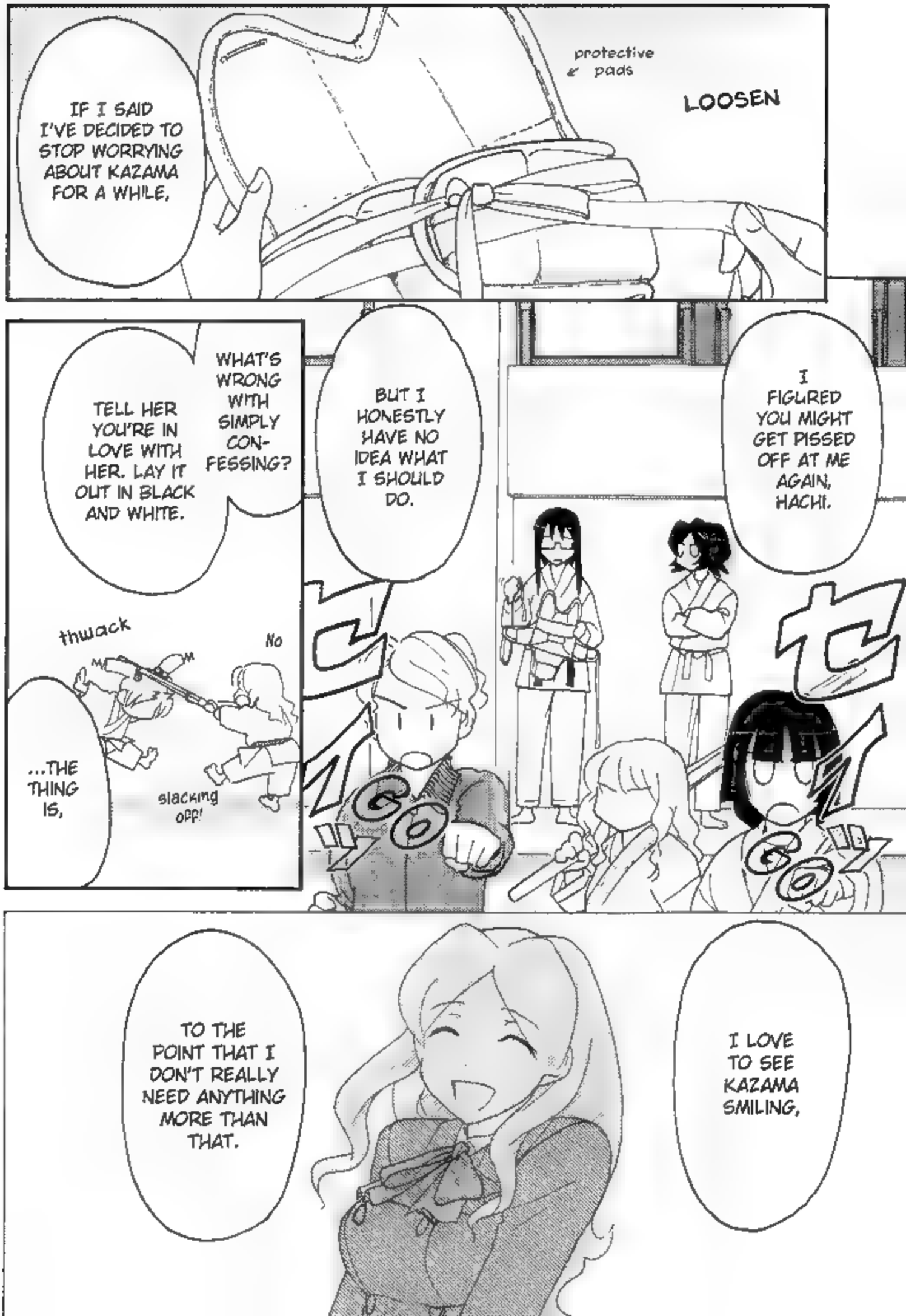

WHO'RE THOSE GUYS?
Are they all female?
Gahahahaha
IS THERE SOME KIND OF SPORTS MATCH GOING ON TODAY?
ARE THEY HERE TO PROVIDE MORAL SUP-PORT?


A FEW SECOND-YEAR GIRLS ARE GONNA BATTLE IT OUT.
THERE WERE RUMORS ABOUT THEM HAVING A SCUFFLE YESTERDAY EVENING.
NAH, YOU'RE OFF-BASE. I HEARD IT WAS A TOTAL ONE-SIDED MASSACRE.
REMEMBER THAT REALLY TALL, SUPER-STRONG CHICK?

YEAH, THE ONE FROM THE KARATE CLUB. ISN'T SHE SET TO FIGHT A HUNDRED PEOPLE IN A ROW?
RIGHT, FUJITO?
I NEVER SAID A THING LIKE THAT!
A GIRL FROM THE KARATE CLUB IS GONNA SPAR WITH FIVE FIRST-YEARS IN A ROW!
...THESE RUMORS SURE GET TWISTED AS THEY SPREAD.
ARE YOU SURE IT WAS FIVE PEOPLE AND NOT JUST FIVE ROUNDS?

I bear a message for all the students from outside schools and other valorous fighters
who have rushed from throughout the nation to gather at our campus
Ummm
DON'T BLAME ME IF IT'S INACCURATE!
Murasame Sumika, a student at this school, will not be conducting a hundred-versus-one unlimited death match today, and any rumors to that effect are absolutely false
Disperse immediately. I repeat, disperse immediately!
WHA T!
You a coward, Murasame Sumika?
Don't run away from us!
What the hell?

I'D LOSE MY CHANCE TO APOLOGIZE ABOUT YESTERDAY.
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR, TOMOE-CHAN!
IT'S THEIR FAULT FOR NOT BEING CLEAR WITH EACH OTHER!
Dammit.
WON'T THAT INCOMPETENT FOUR-EYES COME AND CLEAN UP THIS SITUATION?
IT'D BE PROBLEM-ATIC FOR ME IF SHE DID.
PERHAPS ...
I, TOO, HAVE BECOME FRIGHTENED
OF LOSING THE NEW FRIEND-SHIPS I'VE GAINED.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'LL ALWAYS HAVE YOU, MIYAKO.
clutch


IF I SAID I'VE DECIDED TO STOP WORRYING ABOUT KAZAMA FOR A WHILE,
protective pads
LOOSEN
I FIGURED YOU MIGHT GET PISSED OFF AT ME AGAIN, HACHI.
BUT I HONESTLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I SHOULD DO.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SIMPLY CONFESSING?
TELL HER YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH HER. LAY IT OUT IN BLACK AND WHITE.
thwack
No
...THE THING IS,
slacking off!
GO
GO
TO THE POINT THAT I DON'T REALLY NEED ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT.
I LOVE TO SEE KAZAMA SMILING,

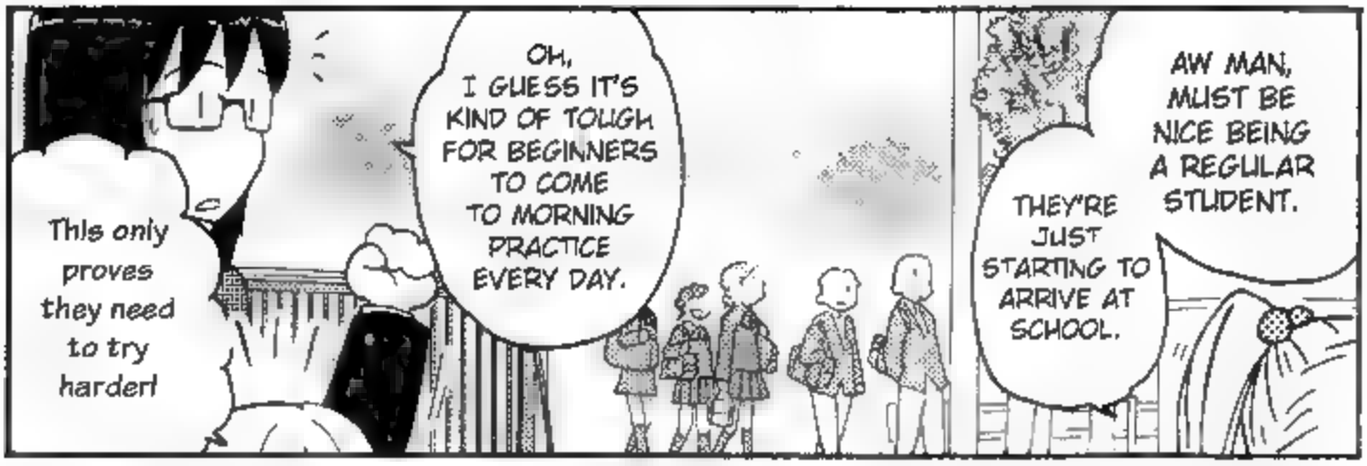
IT'S STARTING TO MAKE ME THINK SHE MIGHT BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT HAVING THE LIKES OF ME AROUND HER.
BUT KAZAMA WON'T SMILE AT ME ANYMORE.
I... CAN'T AGREE.
OKAY. SEMIMARU-SAN, IT'S TIME TO START OUR MATCH!
JOLT
THANKS.

A- A- ARE WE SERIOUSLY GOING TO HAVE A FREE-FOR-ALL BOUT?
UM...
UH, UM...
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WORK YOUR HARDEST SO YOU'LL BE CAPABLE OF IT SOMEDAY IN THE FUTURE.
THERE'S NOTHING EMBARRASSING ABOUT ADMITTING YOU CAN'T DO SOMETHING.
Watch it, you're pissing me off!
YOU KICKED UP SUCH A HUGE FUSS BEFORE. WHAT'S WITH THIS ATTITUDE SHIFT?
... LOOK HERE, YOU.
AHAHA. SHALL WE START BY GOING OVER SOME BASIC PAIRED EXERCISES, THEN?
GLIDE
THEN LET'S START WITH YOU TAKING THE ROLE OF OFFENSE, SEMIMARU-SAN.
TH-
THANKS FOR YOUR GUIDANCE!
going tense
Begin!

MID-
LEVEL
PUNCH!
naa..
...
AH
THIS
FEELING
...

GUESS MORNING PRACTICE DOESN'T LEAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR THIS, AFTER ALL.
DING DONG DING DONG
(the bell for class)
OOPS...
DING DONG DING DONG
... PLEASE HAVE A REAL MATCH WITH ME SOMEDAY.
UM, SENPAI...
I'M gonna go change clothes
WE-'RE DO-NE!
Thank you very much

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!


This only proves they need to try harder!
OH, I GUESS IT'S KIND OF TOUGH FOR BEGINNERS TO COME TO MORNING PRACTICE EVERY DAY.
THEY'RE JUST STARTING TO ARRIVE AT SCHOOL.
AW MAN, MUST BE NICE BEING A REGULAR STUDENT.

OH, GOOD MORNING, SENPAI.
Th- th- that's, er...
WELL, I ALWAYS GIVE YOU A PIGGYBACK RIDE ON THE WAY BACK, LOTTE.

MORNING, KAZAMA.
Yo!

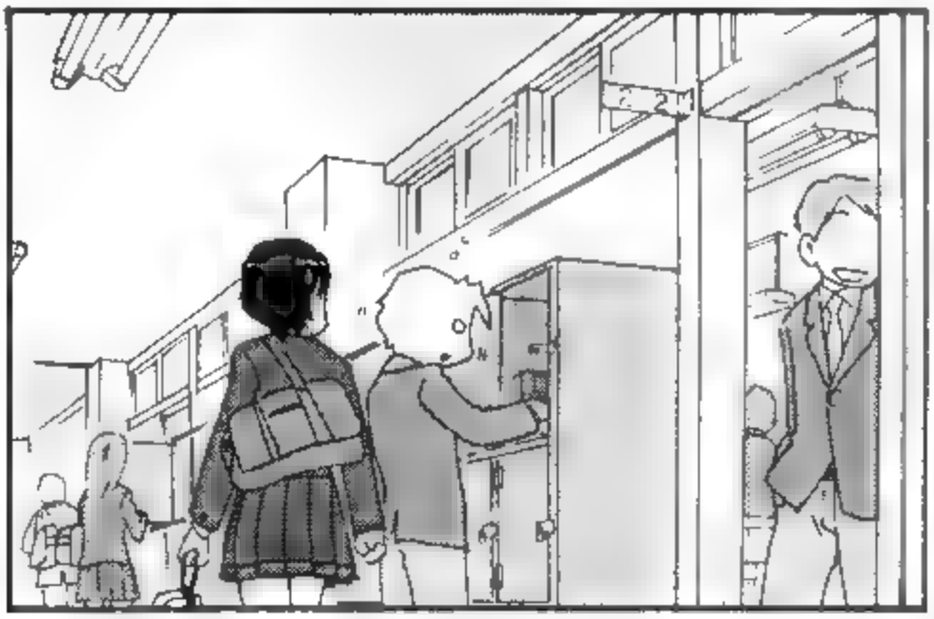
GOOD MORNING, SUMI-CHAN.
2-2
...GOOD MORNING.

IT WAS INCREDIBLE TO WATCH! IT LITERALLY FELT LIKE SEEING SAMURAI WARRIORS: MURASAME (THE PS3 VERSION).
AHAHAHAHAHA
あはははは～
SHE DEMOLISHED THEM AND FLUNG THEM AWAY FROM HER, OVER AND OVER.
GO TO YOUR SEATS!
Why do you make it sound like I used judo throws?
CALM DOWN, KYORI-CHAN.
I WISH YOU'D BEEN THERE TO WITNESS IT, USHIO-CHAN.

OH. THERE YOU ARE.
WOW. YOU WASHED IT FOR ME?
Nice to meet you
ARE YOU NEW-COMERS TO THE KARATE CLUB?
Ehehen
MAY WE HAVE LUNCH WITH YOU?
NOPE, I'M IN THE WIND INSTRUMENT ENSEMBLE.
Nah, just kidding.
I'M GOING TO ASK FOR SOME PRETTY HEAVY INTEREST ON THAT MONEY I LENT YOU.
YOU AREN'T IN THE KARATE CLUB, SENPAI?
MATSU-BARA-SAN. SEMIMARU-SAN.

RIP
FOLD FOLD
IT'S A CULTURAL ACTIVITIES CLUB, BUT WE PRACTICE AS HARD AS ANY ATHLETIC TEAM.
WOW, SHE AND MAYU-CHAN APPEAR TO BE EVENLY MATCHED.
THEY'RE BOTH OBLIVIOUS. THEY'LL GET ALONG GREAT.
THERE'S NOTHING WEIRD ABOUT IT. IT'S DELICIOUS.
WANT A PIECE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE EAT CURRY BREAD RIGHT AFTER A FULL MEAL.
...HUH.
ESTABLISHED BY GIRLS, FOR GIRLS...
WHAT'S THE GIRLS' CLUB?
THE ADDITION OF MORE KARATE-OBSESSED IDIOTS MEANS IT'S BECOMING LESS AND LESS LIKE OUR GIRLS' CLUB, WHICH WAS THE WHOLE POINT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WHAT A HASSLE.

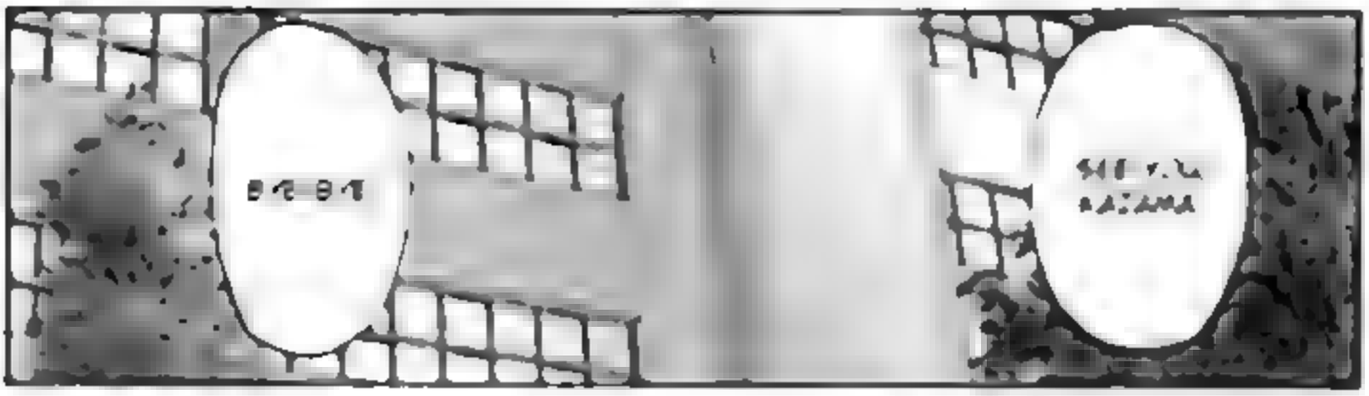
Don't you dare look down on us!
TO SUM THINGS UP,
THE TWO OF YOU ARE IN A ROMANTIC SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIP?
IN-DEED.
WHY, YOU LITTLE!!
WHAT THE HECK? WHAT'S THE POINT OF MAKING THAT INTO A FORMAL CLUB?
HILARIOUS!
AHAHAHAHAHAHA
WE'RE ALL STUFFED TO THE GILLS, SO WHY DON'T WE PLAY A FUN GAME?
POP-UP
N- NOW, THEN.
THAT'S WEIRD-
Anaha, people tell me that all the time
Senpai, there's something wrong with your stomach
Geez...
YOU'RE HAVING ANOTHER ONE!?
EHHH? BUT I'M ONLY ABOUT 80% FULL.
rip



THE NEXT TIME THE KARATE CLUB CAUSES A RUCKUS, I'LL REVOKE YOUR OFFICIAL STATUS.
Yes, Ma'am.

SEE YOU LATER.
YEAH, YEAH.

GOOD LUCK WITH THE CLUB, EVERYBODY.
YEAH. BYE FOR NOW, USHIO-CHAN.
KA- KAZAMA'S REAL BUSY, WHAT WITH ALL THE HOUSEWORK SHE HAS TO DO AND STUFF.



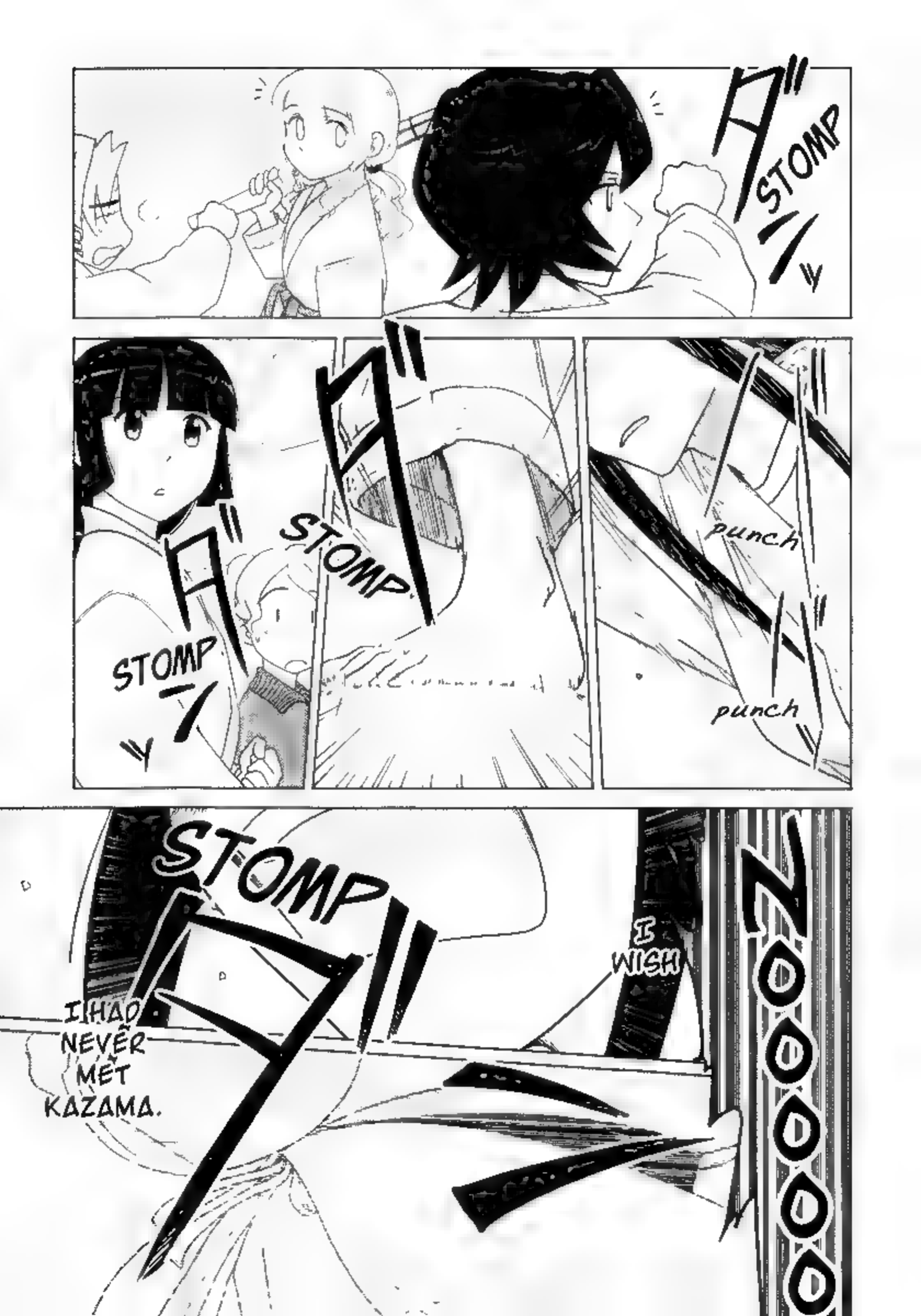
FOCUS...
I HAVE TO FOCUS.
NO,
L- leave it to me!
I'D LIKE TO PERFORM SOME EXERCISES ON MY OWN.
LOTTE, COULD YOU TAKE OVER FOR A SEC?
I COLLECT MY BREATH.
sigh
All right, everyone make sure to buckle down and concentrate!
pull

MY PHYSICAL FORM
I CENTER MY MIND ON THE SPOT JUST BELOW MY NAVEL
INCLUDING MY HEART.
IS MINE TO CONTROL.
MY MIND AND BODY ARE ONE
A PERFECT WHOLE
AND LET MY CONSCIOUSNESS FLOW EQUALLY THROUGH ALL OF MY LIMBS.

THIS IS WHAT I WAS LIKE BEFORE I MET KAZAMA.
YES.
THIS IS HOW IT FEELS.
CLENCH

THIS IS WHAT
I'M LIKE WITHOUT
KAZAMA—

ONE SOLITARY LIE HAS BURIED EVERYTHING ELSE.
SHE DIDN'T...
MEET MY EYES A SINGLE TIME TODAY.
I WAS THE FIRST ONE OF US TO TELL A LIE.
grip
TO THINK I MIGHT BE HAPPY
JUST WATCHING HER...
MY PUNISHMENT FOR LYING.
SO THIS CAN ONLY BE


STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
punch
punch
STOMP
I HAD NEVER MET KAZAMA.
I WISH
ZOOOOO

I WISH...

I HAD NEVER FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HER.

Afterword

So here we are at Volume 5. People from all quarters have flattered the heck out of me ever since the anime adaptation was announced, calling me "Sensei" and so forth, but the manga version is currently going through some ulcer-inducing developments. It's even giving me a stomachache.

How odd... and I'd planned for Kazama to join the Karate Club, too, and get swept up in a rowdy, giggly, delightful, swoon-worthy ♡ love rivalry with the freshman newbies...

Well, feel free to enjoy your full share of "rowdy, giggly, delightful, swoon-worthy ♡" material in the anime version. (PR)

Please stick with me a little longer. I'll do my best to make Kazama and Murasame-san's relationship rowdy, giggly and delightful once more, and give my readers more cause to swoon than ever before.

I wavered over whether to write it as "swoon-worthy ♡" or "swoon ♡ worthy."

A certain day in August '09

Ikeda ㋮

Sasameki Koto By Ikeda Takashi

Part 30 Lies and Punishment

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Dagger

Proofreader
Kanzar

Editor
Chara
Omnsciento

Quality Checkers
Casusby
MrEngenious

Thus completes the fifth volume, so that means we're all caught up with the Sasameki Koto volumes! Since we're only going to do Sasameki Koto from volume raws, it also means no more SK until the next volume is out. But when is that? Well it looks like it'll be out in March. So that means that hopefully we'll continue on our 2 chapters per month pace as if nothing had happened.

– Casusby

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SASAMEKI KOTO 6

IKEDA TADASHI

SET FOR RELEASE
IN EARLY SPRING 2010!
SEE FOR YOURSELF
WHAT BECOMES
OF THEM...

Like
water
slipping
through
one's
hands,

Neither
standing
up to face
one another
nor coming
in contact,

will their
gradually
separating
hearts never
return to
how they were
in the past?

they
continue
down their
divergent
paths...

NEXT VOLUME PREVIEW

IN VOL. 6!
TO BE CONT'D

Useless Addition #30